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THE TIMES

MOTERING
Page 33

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40p

Gadaffi threatened with oil embargo after agents are accused of Pan Am bombing

Libya told: Surrender Lockerbie suspects

By MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON and KERRY GILL in EDINBURGH

BRITAIN and America will seek an international oil embargo and a ban on flights in and out of Libya if the Tripoli government does not surrender two intelligence agents accused of the Lockerbie bombing.

Warrants were issued in Edinburgh and Washington yesterday for the arrest of Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah for the murder of the 270 victims of the 1988 air disaster. The men, who are believed to be in Libya, are thought to have carried out the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 with the full authority of Colonel Gaddafi.

Douglas Hurd told the Commons yesterday that Britain expected Libya to return the accused, saying such a "fiendish act of wickedness" could not be ignored. But Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Scotland's Lord Advocate, admitted that even though the warrants were being circulated through Interpol it was unlikely that the men would be arrested "in the normal way".

Mr Hurd declined to speculate in the Commons on what would happen if the men were not surrendered, but a well-

placed source in Washington said Britain and America were planning a "very severe sanctions regime" beginning with an oil embargo and flight ban. The Soviet Union might also be asked to cut off arms supplies to Tripoli as part of the campaign, which could start by the end of the month.

Publicly, the Bush administration ruled out no options for capturing the two men, including their seizure from Libya. American law permits such action in cases of international terrorism and it was last invoked when the Panamanian leader, Manuel Noriega, was captured in 1989. However, sanctions are preferred and Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that President Bush would work closely with John Major and other world leaders to fashion a "co-operative international response".

Mr Fitzwater said it was hard to believe that the two men, who were involved in airline security, could have carried out the bombing without the active involvement of "higher-ups", and investigators in Scotland said it was inconceivable that Colonel Gaddafi would have been unaware of the plot. The agents were said to have attempted to leave "fingerprints" to implicate Syria and Iran, but officials said yesterday that there was no evidence pointing to their involvement. All intelligence pointed to a solely Libyan operation designed to coincide with the last days of President Reagan's administration in retaliation for his bombing of Tripoli in 1986.

There had been suggestions that the use of a Toshiba Bomb Beat radiocassette recorder to house the bomb indicated that the attack was the work of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. But it was disclosed yesterday that the bomb was not barometrically timed, a method used by the front. Instead, a "well-



ABDEL BASSET ALI AL-MEGRAHI

Aliases: Abd Al Basset Al Megrahi; Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi; Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed; Mr. Baset; Ahmed Khalifa Abdusamad

Description:

- Date of Birth: April 1, 1952
- POB: Tripoli, Libya
- Height: Approximately 5' 8"
- Weight: Approximately 190 lbs.
- Hair: Black Curly, Clean Shaven
- Complexion: Light Brown
- Marital Status: Married
- Nationality: Libyan
- Occupation: Formerly Chief of Airline Security Section

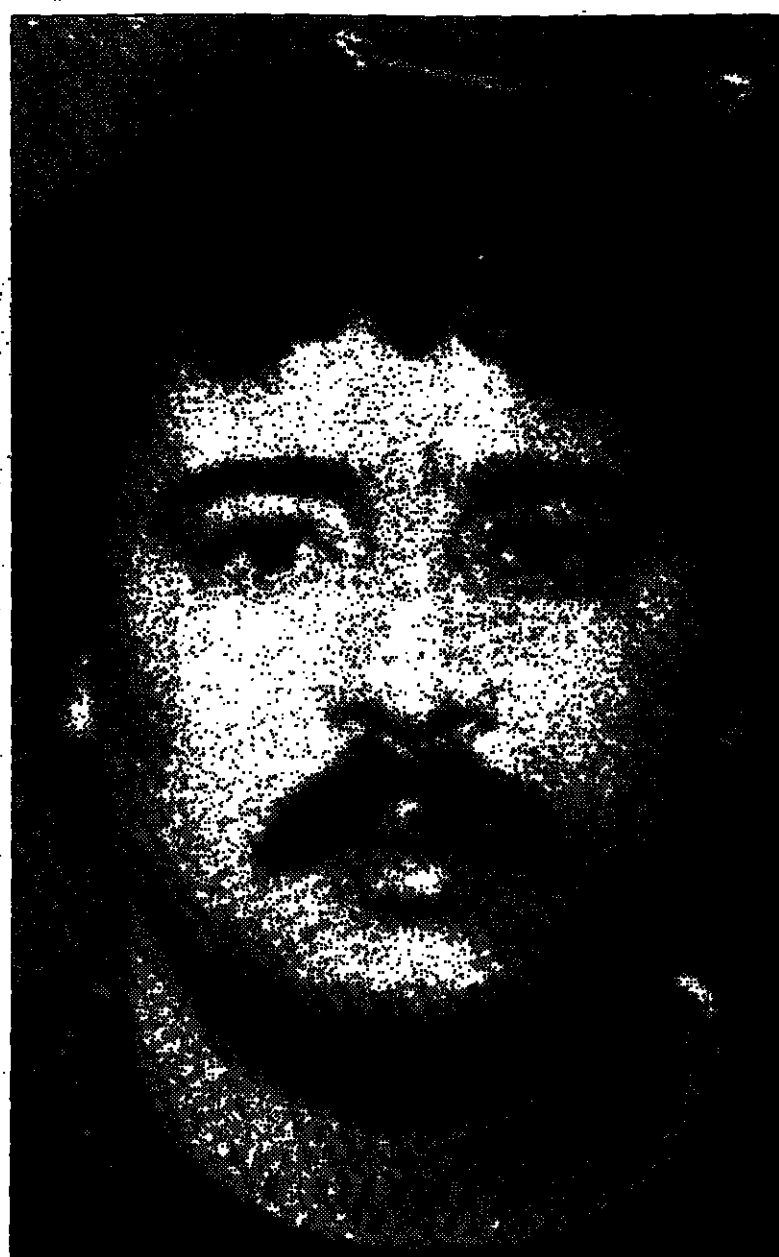
Wanted for murder: the photographs and descriptions of two Libyans issued by the US Justice Department in Washington yesterday

chined, sophisticated" timer was used.

Both Lord Fraser and Bob Mueller, the American assistant attorney-general, insisted yesterday that they had come under no pressure to avoid implicating Iran or Syria for political reasons. Relations with the two countries have improved in recent months, especially in connection with the release of Western hostages from Beirut. Mr Mueller said: "Not only was there no effort to influence this investigation by outside agencies, but we would certainly not have countenanced that."

The Lord Advocate has said

that he would resign if he suffered any political pressure. Mr Hurd also emphasised that Iran and Syria were not involved when he made his Commons statement. He said the accusations against the Libyans were of the gravest possible kind: "This is mass murder, which is alleged to involve the organs of government of a state." The foreign secretary added that he had warned colleagues in Europe to be "very reserved and cautious" about professions by the Libyan government that it had turned its back on terrorism. He was supported by Gerald Kaufman, the



LAMEN KHALIFA FHIMAH

Aliases: Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah Mr. Lamin

Description:

- Date of Birth: 1956
- POB: Suk Giuma, Libya
- Height: Approximately 5' 7"
- Weight: Approximately 190 lbs.
- Hair: Black, Light Brown Mustache
- Complexion: Light Brown
- Marital Status: Married
- Nationality: Libyan
- Occupation: Station Manager, Libyan Arab Airlines

shadow foreign secretary, who said that the Libyans had been sending signals that they wished to resume diplomatic relations with Britain. "A test of their sincerity will be whether they deliver to the forces of law and order the men for whom warrants of arrest have been issued."

Tripoli gave no official reaction last night, but its ambassador to France said: "It is a very serious accusation or a very serious lie. We are victims of terrorism and not perpetrators of it."

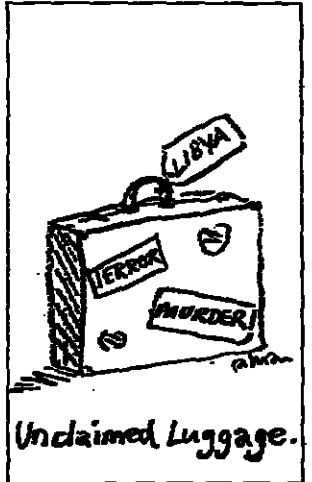
The two men are to be charged with conspiracy, murder and contravention of the

Aviation Security Act. They could be tried in either Scotland or America, and the government said yesterday that it would have no objection to the case being heard in America.

Officials on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday gave details of how they believed the plot was hatched. Both Megrahi and Fhimah worked for Libyan Arab Airlines. Megrahi as head of security and Fhimah as station officer at Luqa airport in Malta. They are said to have used the airline as a base for acts of terrorism and to have kept Semtex explosive in their desks at Luqa. On

December 20, the two men are said to have put a suitcase packed with clothing and the bomb on an Air Malta flight to Frankfurt using luggage tags saying "Rush JFK". The bomb was concealed in the radiocassette and passed through Frankfurt to Heathrow before being put on flight 103 bound for New York. It exploded over Lockerbie.

Finest hour, page 2
Leading article, page 19



Government plans to avoid Tory clash in Europe vote

By ROBIN OAKLEY and NICHOLAS WOOD

FOLLOWING warnings by Tory right-wingers that they have had "sand kicked in our faces" quite sufficiently over the ousting of the Euro-sceptic William Cash as chairman of the backbench European affairs committee, the government is seeking to avoid confrontation next week with potential rebels on European union.

It has framed a motion for the pre-Maastricht debate in the Commons next Wednesday and Thursday designed not to force Euro-sceptics into a corner.

A 15-minute political session with no officials present followed yesterday morning's cabinet meeting, at which ministers agreed their "bottom line" on European union.

negotiations in Maastricht, with no dissenters. There are to be similar sessions after virtually every cabinet in future, stepping up the tempo of pre-election campaigning.

Although ministers are not yet prepared to say so in public, they now believe that unemployment could actually be falling by the time of the next election. At the political session, there was wide assent that the Labour by-election, in which the Conservative vote fell by only 3 per cent compared with the 13 per cent fall at Macclesfield, in May, and the 22 per cent fall at Ribblesdale, in March, gave real hope for the general election.

The cabinet discussed briefly a draft of the motion

for the pre-Maastricht debate and ministers were asked to make any suggestions for alterations by telephone later. The motion, to be finalised today by the prime minister's office, is understood to offer support for the government's negotiating position in Maastricht, setting out the skeleton of the negotiating hand without giving it all away.

Michael Heseltine, was thought by Euro-sceptics to have been among ministers pressing previously for a motion that would "smoke out" fundamentalists who will have no truck with any treaty that

Continued on page 24, col 2
German threat, page 11
Leading article, page 19
Political sketch, page 24

Ministers cheered by jobless total

By PHILIP BASSETT

THE worst of the rises in unemployment might now be over, the prime minister said yesterday as the number of people out of work rose by the smallest monthly increase for more than a year.

Ministers were delighted by the much lower than expected increase and claimed that the rise of 15,700 to a seasonally-adjusted total of 2,472,900 confirmed that the recession was ending.

Workers at the Ford motor company have accepted a pay deal worth 5 per cent. The two-year deal gives an increase from November 24, and inflation-rate rise plus 0.5 per cent or 5 per cent next year, whichever is greater.

Major's delight, page 25

Thousands flee from Dubrovnik on ferry

From TIM JUDAH in DUBROVNIK

ABOUT 2,500 people yesterday staged a desperate attempt to flee the besieged Adriatic port of Dubrovnik by cramming onto a ferry ship which had docked here on Wednesday to evacuate six European Community ceasefire observers. The vessel later sailed out of the port leaving behind more than 50,000 people in the city which has been without water, food or electricity supplies for the past six weeks.

In scenes of chaos the crowd forced their way onto the Slavija, the first vessel allowed into the port in a week, while fires continued to burn in the bombed-out remains of surrounding harbour buildings two days after they had been hit by Yugoslav army mortars and artillery. Smoke swirled

around the quayside as babies, the wounded, women, children and the old, braved driving rain to board the Slavija.

The vessel was only allowed to enter Dubrovnik after the EC had brokered a special truce to enable it to pick up its observers. They were being withdrawn after facing more than four days of intense shelling.

As the tentative truce held Lord Carrington, the EC peace conference chairman, said that all the warring factions in the Yugoslav conflict had agreed to allow a United Nations peacekeeping force to intervene in the Yugoslav conflict.

The former foreign secretary continued on page 24, col 6
Slivovitz and shells, page 12

Rabbi's pet theory to protect the sabbath

From RICHARD BEESTON in JERUSALEM

IN JUDAISM'S perennial search for ways around the strict sabbath regulations, few rabbis can quite match the lateral thinking of Josef Ovadia, who today reveals a plan to revolutionise the lives of observant Jews.

While NASA and the Soviet space agency may no longer have uses for trained monkeys and dogs in their exploration of the cosmos, Rabbi Ovadia in today's edition of the ultra-Orthodox magazine *Yom Hashishi* writes that it is possible to use trained animals to perform functions which Jews are banned from doing under *Halacha*, Jewish law.

Rabbi Ovadia writes, in response to

a reader's letter: "It is possible to make a trained dog or monkey turn off the lights and perform other functions on the sabbath." Needless to say, there is a catch in the new ruling, namely that pet owners cannot employ their own animals to perform the functions, because they, like their masters, must be allowed to rest.

Although it is forbidden to drive cars, turn on lights or light cookers on the sabbath, running for 24 hours from sundown on Friday, observant Jews have discovered an array of gimmicks to circumvent the regulations without breaking them. For instance, traditionally synagogues have employed the services of a *shabbas gay* or sabbath Gentile who

turns lights on and off between services without any Jews breaking the rules.

Tamar Friedman, an Israeli monkey-trainer, has raised practical problems about the training of animals to undertake some tasks. She estimated it would take six years to train a monkey to perform jobs around the house and that the animal would have to work every day if it was to learn the technique and not just once a week on the sabbath.

Still Rabbi Ovadia, the former chief rabbi of the Sephardi (Oriental) community, is unlikely to be daunted by such earthly concerns. A few months ago he successfully resolved an even more complex dilemma —

whether a Jew was permitted to break the sabbath regulations to save the life of a Gentile.

At an oral law conference on medicine the rabbi broke new ground when he insisted that Jews could, and even should, violate the sabbath in order to save the life of a non-Jew, even though Jewish law specifies at present that the sabbath can be broken only to save the life of another Jew.

But he argued that the failure of Jews to save the life of a Gentile could result in an anti-Semitic backlash threatening Jewish life. So saving a non-Jew could indirectly be interpreted as saving that of a Jew.

Peace backing, page 12

TODAY IN THE TIMES

LIFE WITH BOB



"He was childish, like a choirboy. He never believed anyone would do him any harm. It wasn't until they had the knife right in his back practically through to his heart that he would consider them nasty."

For the first time since his funeral Elizabeth Maxwell talks about life with Robert, and about her future without him.
The Kate Mulik interview
Page 17

Saturday Review

MONROE'S SECRET



"The taxi driver would say to her: 'You know, if you lost 20th and washed your face, you could look just like Marilyn Monroe.'"

In tomorrow's Review, Eve Arnold describes life with an everyday goddess

WEEKEND TIMES

WITS AT LARGE



Bickering couples and cocktail parties fed *The New Yorker* cartoonists for decades. Now the lines are changing, as tomorrow's Weekend Times reveals

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Specimen

Lockerbie warrants: US officials disclose the steps taken by Libyan agents

Investigators jubilant at 'finest hour'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN officials told yesterday how Libyan agents made the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103, how they placed it on board, and how tiny fragments of circuit board retrieved during a search of 845 sq miles of Scotland led to their downfall. The officials called it "one of law enforcement's finest hours".

Robert Mueller, assistant attorney general in the FBI's criminal division, said that for the search alone, the Scottish police "deserve the most unbelievable praise of any law enforcement agency in the world".

The two fragments, one embedded in a scrap of clothing and the other in the side of the forward cargo containers, were smaller than fingernails. Forensic scientists were nevertheless able to determine that one came from a particular model of Toshiba radio, the other from a timing device. That prototype digital electronic timer, an MS1-13, they traced to a Swiss company called Meister et Bollier of Zurich who had custom-made 20 such timers for the Jamahiriya Security Organisation, a Libyan intelligence organisation, in 1985.

The investigators determined that the scraps of clothing were manufactured exclusively in Malta. They were able to trace one particular Maltese shop, Mary's House, where a Libyan bought such clothing shortly before the bombing.

They were also able to establish through examination of those items that they had been packed in a brown Samsonite suitcase, and from records at Frankfurt airport that that suitcase had arrived, unaccompanied, on the 9.52am Air Malta Flight 180 on December 21, the day of the bombing. It was transferred to Pan Am Flight 103A, the feeder flight for the plane that took off

from London that evening.

According to the US Justice Department's indictment, the events that led up to the bombing began with the Swiss company's sale of the timers to Izzet Din Al-Hinshari, Libya's former justice minister and now transportation minister, in the summer of 1985.

In 1988 the timers were issued to JSO operatives abroad, many working under the cover of Libyan Arab Airlines (LAA), along with detonators and plastic explosives. Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, one of those charged, is said to have stored the explosive at the LAA office in Malta's Luga Airport, where he worked. With Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi, chief of the JSO's airline security section, they then constructed the bomb and placed it inside the Toshiba radio.

On December 7, Basset is alleged to have bought clothes at Mary's House, 300 yards from the Holiday Inn, in Sliema, to stuff the suitcase with. On December 15, Fhimah wrote a reminder to himself in his diary to take some Air Malta baggage tags from the airport. On December 17 Basset flew to Tripoli, the Libyan capital, for a meeting, followed the next day by Fhimah, and both returned on December 20, bringing with them the suitcase.

The next day, using their inside knowledge of Luga airport, they are said to have placed the Samsonite suitcase with its stolen Air Malta tags in the stream of international passenger luggage being loaded on outgoing flights. Basset, using an assumed name, quickly left Malta for Tripoli on Libyan Airlines Flight LN 147 and was back by the time the bomb went off.

Libya accused, page 1
Leading article, page 19

LOCKERBIE
AIR DISASTER

Piecing together the story: Lord Fraser at yesterday's press conference in Edinburgh, announcing the issuing of warrants. Top, the scene at Lockerbie on the morning after the bombing in 1989 and, below, reconstruction of the lower port fuselage section of the Pan Am jumbo

How the evidence built up

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AT 7.03pm on December 21 1988, Pan Am flight 103 was 38 minutes out of Heathrow heading westwards at an altitude of six miles with 243 passengers and 16 crew. Seconds later the Boeing 747's radar blip at air traffic control suddenly divided into five and vanished.

Within hours of the crash, experts decided that the cause must be a bomb. Their expectations were confirmed in days. The question of who did it has taken a great deal longer.

Over the past years many groups have come under suspicion, but chiefly blame has fastened on the Palestinian group known as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The evidence was compelling.

The aircraft was brought down by a device hidden in a radio cassette player. In October 1988 the Germans arrested 16 members of the group with weapons and devices similar to the one used. Most were released, although the device and the attack matched the methods of the PFLP-GC.

The team of Scottish detectives, FBI agents and German investigators concentrated on the movements of a brown Samsonite suitcase that scientists had shown held the bomb. A man linked to the case was thought to be Abu Talh, said to be a senior member of the PFLP-GC, held in Sweden. But in 1990-91 a new culprit emerged. A former CIA official suggested the attack was inspired by

Iran's desire for revenge over an Iranian Airbus shot down accidentally by an American missile. It was carried out by Libyans after the PFLP-GC withdrew. The theory was half right.

According to American reports, the case against Libya hardened when a CIA agent began analysing a tiny piece of microchip and discovered a distinctive technical "fingerprint".

Working through CIA files he found a connection with the 1984 bombing of a French aircraft in Chad. Further evidence came from a French aircraft brought down over Niger in 1989.

The PFLP-GC used Czech detonators but the Libyan attacks involved Swiss components. The fragment from Lockerbie was also Swiss and its "fingerprint" matched that of other Libyan devices.

Midlands editor leads buy-out

Midland Newspapers, publisher of *The Birmingham Post* and *The Birmingham Evening Mail*, has been bought by its management in a £125 million deal. The group, which publishes the *Sunday Mercury*, the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* and weekly newspapers, was owned by Ingersoll Publications.

The management team is led by Chris Oakley, editor-in-chief of Birmingham Post and Mail, who will become chief executive. Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory cabinet minister, will be non-executive chairman.

Midland Newspapers employs more than 1,000 people and had a turnover of over £75 million last year.

Kurds pledge

Every penny of the nearly £14 million subscribed by the government and the public to Jeffrey Archer's Simple Truth appeal for Kurdish refugees could be accounted for, the British Red Cross society said yesterday. Michael Whitlam, the society's director-general, said he was concerned that suggestions that millions of pounds had not reached the intended recipients could damage its future operations.

Homes appeal

The Archbishop of Canterbury last night urged the business community to tackle the government over an increasing shortage of cheap housing. Dr George Carey expressed concern that the role of government in providing cheap housing was reduced. He was addressing the annual meeting of the Per Cent Club, a group of companies who donate at least 1% of pre-tax profits to the community.

Curb on lenders

Mortgage lenders who are quick to raise interest rates but slow to bring them down again could face court proceedings under regulations proposed by the Law Commission yesterday. The government's advisory body on law reform said in a report to the Lord Chancellor that mortgage law, largely unrevived since 1925, should be overhauled and simplified to make it more readily understood.

Bereaved father blames Iranians

By KERRY GILL

JIM Swire, spokesman for relatives of Britons killed on Pan Am flight 103, said that he still believed that the atrocity was carried out by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, as mercenaries for the Iranians.

The bombing, Dr Swire believed, was revenge for the downing of the Iranian Airbus over the Gulf. The front, headed by Ahmed Jibril, had used Libyan agents to confuse the chase, he said.

Dr Swire added: "From a personal point of view, it reminds me of the day I heard that my daughter had been murdered. When I saw these two names, I thought that here at last were the two people responsible. At least

we now have an objective, but it is by no means the end of the story."

Dr Swire called on governments to force Libya to hand over the two men by banning flights to and from the country. He dissociated himself and the relatives from any thought of force against Libya. It would, he said, be crazy to risk the lives of innocent people to bring two men to justice.

Patrick Keegan, Lockerbie's Catholic priest, said: "The fact that no one from Syria was named is a sign [the US is] trying to build a good relationship with them. I fear a cover-up."

Israelis suspect Syrian role cover-up

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL reacted sceptically yesterday to the results of the Lockerbie investigation, particularly any suggestion that appeared to exonerate Syria of involvement in terrorism.

Ever since the Libyan connection was revealed, relatives of victims who died and commentators on the Middle East have grown increasingly suspicious that Tripoli's alleged role was in reality a convenient method of removing Damascus from the list of suspects.

The move, it is argued, was aimed at placating Syrian President Hafez Assad who for the past year has shown signs of being prepared to co-

operate with Washington, first in the Gulf war against Iraq and more recently by participating in the US-led peace talks.

Yossi Olmert, head of the Israeli government press office and a member of the Israeli team which negotiated with a Syrian delegation at Madrid, said the naming of Libyan agents did not necessarily exclude Syria or Iran from involvement in the attack.

"We are not surprised by the findings, it is what we call sub-contracting," said Mr Olmert, who recalled that Syria and Libya launched a joint attack in Berlin in 1986 when the La Belle discotheque was blown up with the death of one American serviceman.

"Perhaps direct Syrian involvement in terrorist operations has declined but we know for instance that 1,200 terrorists of various organisations are still located and trained in Syria," Mr Olmert said.

One of the groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, was until recently considered the leading suspect in the Lockerbie investigation and reports suggested that the organisation's leader Ahmed Jibril had been hired by Iran to destroy an American airliner in revenge for the Iranian Airbus shot down by the USS Vincennes.

Disabled group condemns Althorp wheelchair 'ban'

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

EARL SPENCER and his wife are banning wheelchairs from Althorp House, their stately home, because they might damage the highly polished floors, it was claimed yesterday.

Without naming Althorp, Lord Snowdon, a campaigner for access to public buildings for the disabled, attacked the attitude of a stately home which denied access to wheelchairs for this reason as "horrendous and totally unacceptable".

Rachel Hurst, an activist on behalf of disabled people who uses a wheelchair herself, heard Lord Snowdon speak and recognised Althorp House, where she claims to have been turned away by Countess Spencer because she was in a wheelchair.

Speaking on Wednesday at

the launch of the first national awards organised by the charity Adapt for premises providing the best facilities for the disabled, Lord Snowdon cited what he called "an appalling example of lack of

thought and concern" in a stately home. "It is stressed in the brochure that people in wheelchairs are not allowed, let alone not welcomed - not because of narrow doorways and passages, not because of steps, but because, and I quote, 'Wheelchairs would damage the highly polished floors and the person pushing the wheelchair might slip and hurt themselves'." Lord Snowdon said.

Mrs Hurst, who is a committee member of Access for Disabled People to Arts Premises Today, said the ground floor of Althorp was easily accessible to wheelchairs. "I was actually stopped from going in by Lady Spencer herself who told me wheelchairs were not allowed because they would damage the polished parquet flooring and would scrape the doormats."

She denied that wheelchairs could pose a problem. "You would have to go berserk to do any damage."

Lady Spencer was not available yesterday but her secretary, Sue Ingram, denied that there was a ban on wheelchairs. However, users were advised that the house "is not suitable because the floor is highly polished and very, very slippery and some of the doorways are single so you can't get through them."

Captain Ronnie Wallace, the association's chairman, said: "The rules must be obeyed in letter and spirit. The association has dealt firmly in the past with anyone who has breached the rules and will take action again if anyone breaks them. We are determined to maintain the good name of the sport."

"Hunting without hounds remains the most humane way of doing the necessary job of managing the fox population to the satisfaction of landowners and in the best interest of the species."

The Quorn, under its new chairman, David Samworth, will, the association said, continue to hunt in Leicestershire with the support of farmers and landowners.

Four Quorn hunt masters barred

By TIM JONES

FOUR former joint masters of the Quorn, Britain's best known fox hunt, which is regularly patronised by the Prince of Wales, were yesterday barred from the sport after allegations that they had been guilty of cruelty against foxes.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association said Barry Hercock and Jos Hanbury would not be considered for reinstatement before May 1995 as masters of any hunt. It recognised, Alistair MacDonald-Buchanan and Di Turner were banned from being masters before next May.

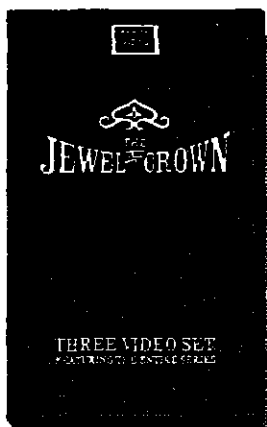
The association's committee of enquiry was held after a member of the League Against Cruel Sports filmed hunt members letting hounds kill a fox after it had been pulled from earth by a terrier. Soon afterwards, Lord Crawshaw resigned as Quorn chairman. Yesterday's committee meeting decided the four

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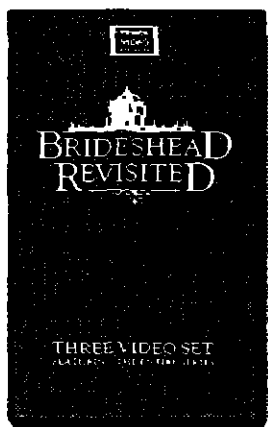
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Fishing crew deaths unlawful killing, inquest jury decides

By BILL FROST

AN INQUEST jury last night returned verdicts of unlawful killing on three men lost when a fishing vessel went down off the Welsh coast three years ago in an accident which relatives of the dead claimed was caused by a submarine.

The inquest, at Fishguard, Dyfed, was held only after the dead men's families won a High Court battle quashing previous verdicts of both misadventure and accidental death. Sam Skinner, the sole survivor of the sinking, said that the original hearing did not properly examine evidence that a submarine may have been responsible for the loss of the *Inspire*.

Mr Skinner, aged 32, told the inquest of his 12 hours in the water, clinging to a lobster marker buoy, after the 28ft *Inspire* was swamped by a large wave in otherwise calm waters off the Dyfed coast. He said he repeatedly tried to resuscitate two other crew members before they died. A third man he saw clinging to a buoy also perished. Mr Skinner was rescued by a defence ministry search vessel.

John Large, a specialist on wave generation, told the inquest that he could find no evidence that the *Inspire* was swamped by a natural wave. He was in no doubt that a submarine had caused the swell.

"I am of the opinion that a natural wave would not have caused or significantly contributed to the foundering of the *Inspire*," he said. Nor had any earth tremors been

recorded in the area off Fishguard which could have whipped up such a wave. Mr Large said that, as Mr Skinner had told the previous hearing, weather reports stated that the swell was approaching from the southwest. Its size would suggest that it was made larger by a "fast-moving submarine, possibly Soviet, just beneath the ocean surface".

The inquest also heard from other witnesses who described seeing two submarines on the surface close to the shore.

Commander Geoffrey Collins, of the Ministry of Defence, said Royal Navy log books showed no British vessels were operating in Cardigan Bay on the day of the sinking, September 5 1988. On grounds of national security he refused to confirm or deny whether the ministry knew if Soviet submarines had been in the area.

"It begs a question I cannot



Skinner: sole survivor from fishing vessel

answer," he told Michael Howells, the Pembrokeshire coroner.

Sam Skinner campaigned for a fresh inquest after a previous coroner refused to allow Mr Large's report to be accepted as evidence.

The High Court ordered a new inquest and quashed original verdicts of misadventure and accidental death on the skipper-owner Terry Jones, aged 29, David Webster, aged 42, and Ronald Laugharne, aged 65, who all lived at Fishguard.

Mr Skinner, who broke down in tears after hearing the verdicts, said later: "As long as we had a fair hearing this was the only conclusion a jury could come to. It's marvellous."

Jane Deighton, the solicitor who represented him and Wendy Webster, the widow of one of the dead men, said: "At last they have had the truth. They have had to fight for three long and awful years to get this far with no help from the authorities. They will consider what to do now and civil action is a possibility. These verdicts are very important and very serious. It means someone was responsible for the deaths of these men."

The bereaved families could now seek compensation for the loss of the *Inspire*.

The defence ministry said last night that officials were considering the result of the inquest. However, a spokesman again insisted that no Navy submarines were in the area at the time of the sinking.

Boxers to get new code of safety

By MICHAEL HORNELL

TOUGH new measures to protect injured professional boxers were announced yesterday by the British Boxing Board of Control.

The regulations ban post-fight television interviews in the ring, which will be switched to the dressing room only after fighters have been cleared by doctors.

John Morris, the board's general secretary, announced the regulations after an enquiry into safety was launched following the brain damage sustained by Michael Watson, two months ago in a world title fight. On Tuesday night an amateur boxer, Kian Kwok Lee, aged 23, collapsed with a brain haemorrhage during a welterweight contest in Portsmouth.

Mr Morris said that the regulations were intended to make certain that the reaction to injuries in the ring, particularly head injuries, were as swift as possible.

They include:

- An alert to the accident, emergency and neurological units of the nearest hospital before a tournament is allowed to take place;
- Ringside resuscitation equipment;
- An ambulance on site with paramedic crew;
- No boxer allowed to leave a tournament until cleared by a board medical officer.

However, the British Medical Association dismissed the regulations as useless. Dr Jeffrey Cundy, the BMA's boxing expert, said that they would do nothing to prevent head injuries and called for the medical attention in the world will not prevent brain damage after it has occurred," he said.

Charities predict big loss in gifts

By RAY CLANCY

BRITAIN'S charities, already hard hit by the recession, fear that they could lose up to £100 million a year as traditional givers switch their cash to new hospital trusts and grant-maintained schools.

Many charities, particularly recently formed small groups, face an uncertain future, according to an annual statistical report published yesterday. Only an increase in legacies has prevented the voluntary income of charities falling, Michael Brophy, director of the Charities Aid Foundation, said at the launch of the report, *Charity Trends 1991*. Company support has dropped by three per cent in real terms and charities drew on reserves to survive.

Mr Brophy said it was realistic to predict that charities could lose £100 million a year as people switched to hospital trusts and schools that opt out. Donors chose a charity on emotional lines, giving to a hospice where a relative was looked after or a hospital treating their child.

Pressure on parents to give money to schools for computers and extra books had been increasing and a wish to see the grant maintained system work could result in less money for charities. "We ex-

pect a huge amount to be given to hospital trusts. We don't know how many there will be but they are likely to be prolific fund-raisers," Mr Brophy said.

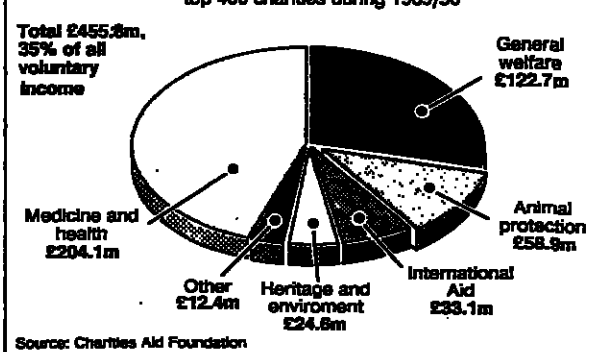
The report shows that in real terms voluntary income is the same as last year and the increases seen in the 1980s have tailed off to practically nothing. "Even more worrying is that much of the growth this year has come from a very small part of the population; those who give relatively large amounts in the form of legacies," Mr Brophy said.

The report suggests further tax advantages for donors. Mr Brophy said that the present £600 bottom qualifying limit for gift aid should be reduced to £100. "Research shows that the average gift is £50 so a reduction would open a flood gate."

In 1989/90 the voluntary income of the top 400 charities in Britain increased by 12 per cent from £1,169.2 million to £1,315.6 million but in real terms the rise was one per cent. Total income from legacies was £455.8 million, or 35 per cent of all income.

Charity Trends 1991, 14th edition (Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 9J) £12.95

CHARITY INCOME FROM LEGACIES



Carbon rope may beat steel

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ADVANCES in oil exploration and the building of suspension bridges able to span the Straits of Gibraltar may result from work at Cambridge University on lightweight ropes of carbon fibre. The Science and Engineering Council reported yesterday.

Steel ropes are limited by their weight, Colin Humphreys, of the university's materials science department, said at the publication of the council's annual report. In a suspension bridge 5,000 metres long, the present limit, steel cables supporting the carriageway represent 70 per cent of the weight. If it were longer, the cables could not bear their own weight, never mind that of the bridge.

Julia King, from the dep-

artment, has collaborated with Bridon Ropes to make ropes woven from carbon fibres thinner than a human hair. Bundles of fibres are embedded in an epoxy resin to form cords that are woven to make a rope five times stronger than a steel rope of the same weight.

Carbon fibre ropes had been made only in relatively short lengths, Professor Humphreys said. If cheaper production methods were developed, the ropes would permit suspension bridges 18,000 metres long, able to span the Straits of Gibraltar.

The ropes could also be used for tethering offshore rigs. Rigs in deep water float on the surface, tethered by steel cables. The depth limit

is 1,500 metres, beyond which the weight of cables would pull the rig down. A rig tethered with carbon fibre rope could operate in water twice as deep, opening new areas for exploration.

The rope is among developments financed by the council, which had supported much good science in spite of a difficult year, Sir Mark Richmond, its chairman, said. A potential overspend of £30 million a year ago had led to a 10 per cent cut. Now, the council was within budget. Figures for science spending, given last week by the Chancellor, were "considerably better than 12 months ago".

Back to the Bunsen, page 18



Guess work: Bernard Weatherill, Speaker of the House, with his granddaughter Sophie, aged two, at the launch in the Commons yesterday of a Save the Children fundraising competition to guess the number of voters in next year's general election. The charity's "Children in Cities '91" hopes to raise £½ million for urban work

Sotheby's clients used code names

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SOTHEBY'S allows its clients to consign antiques under code names or pseudonyms to avoid the attentions of the taxman, Knightsbridge crown court was told yesterday.

Staff in the company often sell consigned goods in their own names, Michael Grieve, for the defence, said. He made his comments while cross-examining James Hodges, aged 34, former head of administration in the tribal and antiquities departments at Sotheby's in London. He denies stealing £50,000 worth of antiquities and defrauding the firm of £15,000.

Simon Starmore, inventory control manager for Sotheby's UK at the time Mr Hodges is accused of removing a valuable bronze age helmet and terracotta bowl, justified the practice of using pseudonyms on the grounds of protecting the privacy of clients.

Mr Grieve said, however: "If a Mr Bruno for example calls himself 'Mr X' the inland revenue will find no record of him. They might come to the conclusion he was not a client, but he might be a very big client. He could be doing highly illegal or highly remunerative. The enquiring authority will draw a blank."

Mr Grieve also said that large quantities of antiques consigned to Sotheby's become part of their paperwork, thereby entering the category "unknown owner property".

The trial continues today.

A. Pandey was dole fraudster court told

ANDY Pandey, Miss Madief, Jack O'Nory, Tom E Gann of Artillery Lane, and even appeared on pay sheets they completed to claim £20-a-day wages, Edward Lewis, for the prosecution, told Southwark crown court, south London.

Casual workers claiming unemployment benefit used the aliases while delivering magazines. Names including John O'Groats, Frank N Stein, and all, the Beatles appeared on pay sheets they completed to claim £20-a-day wages, Edward Lewis, for the prosecution, told Southwark crown court, south London.

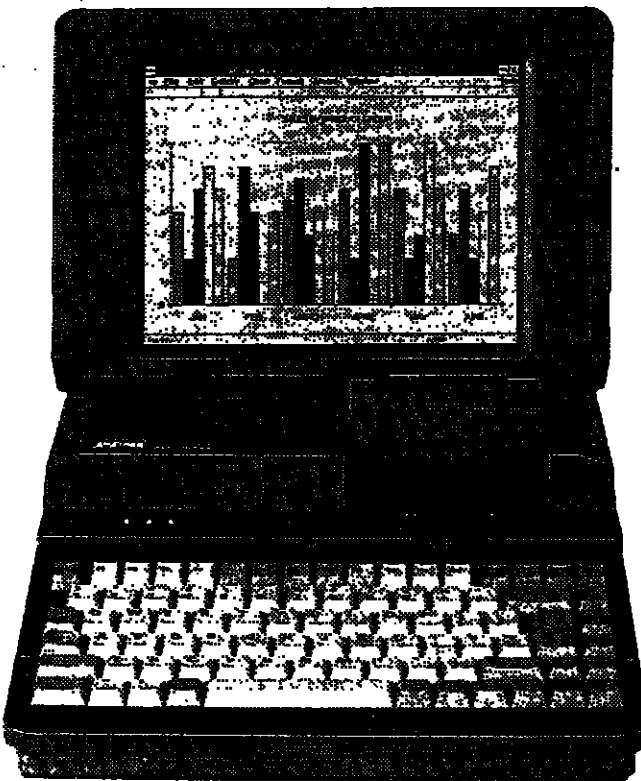
The jury was shown documents which listed names such as Count Dracula of 2 Coffin Lane, and the name of a man with the initials G.O.D., of Paradise Walk.

Donald Forster, aged 54, of Salford, East Sussex, a director of a distribution firm; Robert Longworth, aged 40, a driver of East's Court, west London; and John Jobnik, aged 29, a driver, of Hackney, east London, denied furnishing false information and aiding and abetting others to obtain money from the social security system.

Mr Lewis said the fraud from 1985 to 1989 involved a substantial loss to public funds. Working for Target Distribution, of Chingford, east London, and Direct Delivery Systems, of Hove, was popular. "So widespread was the fraud in 1988 the drivers and runners would be taken to the unemployment office in company vans to sign on."

The case continues today.

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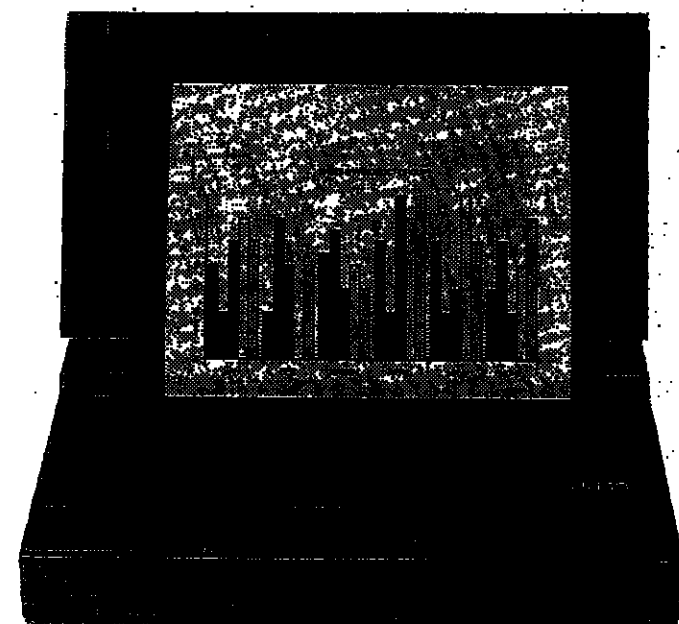
(PC Magazine)

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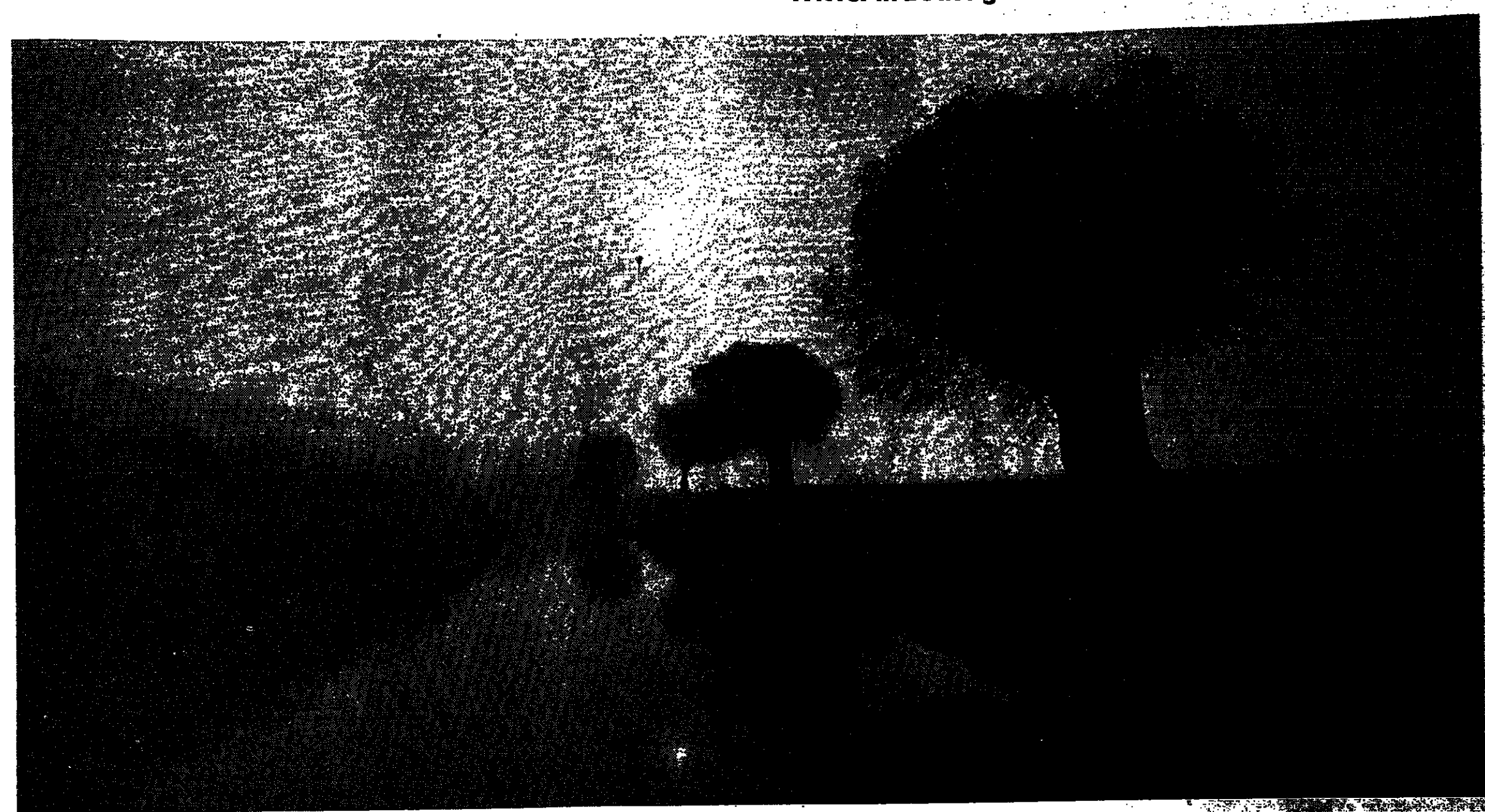
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LEGAL VIEW

Security in Belfast tightened with 450 more RUC officers

By RICHARD FORD AND EDWARD GORMAN

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary is to be strengthened by almost 450 officers, the Northern Ireland secretary announced yesterday as people in the province braced themselves for further revenge killings.

Extra RUC patrols are to be sent into those parts of Belfast that have borne the brunt of recent Republican and Loyalist bombings and shootings. Peter Brooke told MPs that the police and army had assured him of an enhanced presence in areas thought to be most at risk.

The additional 441 officers were requested a year ago by Hugh Annesley, the chief constable, after a review of the force's manpower. Yesterday's announcement will increase the regular force by 239 officers to 8,489 and the full-time reserve by 202 to 3,202. Another 135 officers are expected to be made available for patrol, with some police work being taken over by civilian staff.

The announcement of the extra officers came as MPs on all sides of the Commons condemned the latest killings. Kevin McNamara, shadow Northern Ireland secretary, said: "There can be no romanticism or glory in shooting babies or in shooting or murdering anyone."

He urged political leaders to restart talks aimed at ending the strife in Northern Ireland. Mr Brooke, however, gave the clearest indication yet that the prospect of talks resuming before the general election was slim.

The violence continued yesterday when a Roman Catholic taxi driver was shot in the face and shoulder in what was seen as retaliation by Loyalists for the four IRA killings in Belfast on Wednesday night. The taxi driver was dropping

children off at a primary school in the Ravenhill Road area of east Belfast when a gunman on a motorbike opened fire. The driver ran off but the gunman chased him and fired again.

The shooting comes amid fears of a major upsurge in violence after one of Belfast's worst nights for years in which four Protestant men died in two shootings and a fifth was badly injured in a car bombing.

Terri-Louise White, a baby girl aged five weeks who was hit by at least two bullets during one of the attacks, was in a stable condition in hospital after extensive surgery.

Churchmen and politicians from both sides of the community condemned the latest wave of IRA attacks. Lord Beldis, the Northern Ireland Office security minister, described the IRA as monsters who had carried out monstrous crimes. He said that everything necessary was being done to catch the killers and appealed to the public to help the police in their investigations.

In a second statement on the killings, the IRA claimed that two of its victims were commanders in the outlawed Loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters and that other targets were involved with Ulster Volunteer Force, another illegal group.

The claims were dismissed by the victims' families and security sources. A source in the Ulster Defence Association was quoted as saying that one of the dead men had been connected to his organisation in the past but that the link had been severed years ago. None of the others was known to the UDA, he said. One soldier was killed and nine injured, two seriously, when a Lynx helicopter

crashed in Co Tyrone yesterday. First indications suggested the crash might have been caused by engine failure or impacts by a flock of birds.

An army spokesman said last night: "We are as certain as we can be that there was nothing of a terrorist nature involved - no evidence of the helicopter being struck by a bullet, a rocket or a SAM-7 missile of any kind."

The crash happened at 11.25am between Omagh and the village of Gortin about ten miles to the north. The helicopter came down in a grassy area close to the Omagh road where it remained as an investigation began. Six of the injured soldiers, who were thought to be on their way to or from a routine patrol, were taken to hospital.

The IRA has attacked army helicopters using heavy machine guns or SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles. At least twice pilots have been forced to make emergency landings.



IRA victim Terri-Louise White with her mother, Julie-Ann, aged 15

Unhappy voice asks to be heard

Even when the sun shines, Belfast can seem a grey and sombre place. Recent deaths only make it more so. Edward Gorman reports

JOE Hendron dashed out of his surgery in the health centre on the Lower Falls in west Belfast where he has been a doctor for 25 years. He was on his way to take part in the now almost ritualistic condemnation session at the BBC of Wednesday night's IRA murders of four Protestants.

Dr Hendron, who has for years battled to convince the people of the Falls to turn away from Sinn Féin and the IRA and to opt for the moderate nationalism of the SDLP, seemed close to the end of his tether yesterday.

"When I got the call from the BBC I said 'what on earth am I going to say?' - it's always repetition," Dr Hendron, an SDLP councillor, said. "I don't want to use words like a new low - you can't get any lower than they have already gone."

Outside it was a cold, wet hands-in-pockets sort of day. The sun was out but Belfast seemed black and grey, as if reflecting its own misery.

On those recently all too

rare occasions when the killing has stopped for a few days Belfast can be an enjoyable, even normal, place: a city with great character, a great place to shop or meet friends for a drink and a bit of good conversation, or "crack", as the locals say. Yesterday, the busy streets seemed subdued.

In the studio, Dr Hendron launched into a fierce attack on the IRA. Murder, death and destruction were their only interest, he said. They wanted innocent Catholics to die as a result of their own activities.

He again called for politicians to drop any reservations they might have about a new round of talks. When Cecil Walker, unionist MP for North Belfast, joined the discussion by telephone, these two well-meaning men trapped in the straitjacket of Northern Ireland politics agreed they would start the talking next week.

It was sad because everyone else in the studio knew that it was not going to happen.

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Agents of law submit pleas

Today is the deadline for submissions to an enquiry on far-reaching reforms of the legal profession and the police

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

BOTH branches of the legal profession are expected to oppose the introduction of French-style examining magistrates to supervise police investigations of crime in their evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

The commission, to which the deadline for submissions is today, has been

asked by ministers to consider any advantages the inquisitorial system might offer. However, both the Law Society and the Bar are likely to suggest a greater role by the Crown Prosecution Service rather than importing the idea of a "judge d'instruction".

The Law Society, which will publish its evidence to the commission on Monday, is thought to favour removing the decision to caution or charge from the police altogether and instead giving the responsibility to the CPS.

The Bar, which is still drafting its submission, also opposes any judicial direction of the investigation or what it would call "adding a fifth wheel to the judicial coach".

The other main area of contention will be the appeals process. Both the Law Society and the Bar are thought to favour some kind of independent review body to check cases where miscarriage of justice is alleged.

The Law Society is expected to propose a fundamental overhaul of the appeals system. It is likely to suggest that a convicted person who wishes to appeal should go to a "rapporteur" employed by an independent review tribunal.

If it was felt that the case merited further enquiry, the rapporteur could have power to request the Director of Public Prosecutions to require the police to renew investigations. If the conviction was unsafe, the case would be referred back to the appeal court, which would in turn refer it to the crown court for a re-trial.

By STEWART TENDLER

THE police evidence to the commission is likely to call for a greater readiness by the CPS to prosecute cases in the public interest, the allowing of comment in court on the use of the right to silence during interrogation, and speedier trial processes with greater use of pre-trial hearings and taped interviews.

The three staff associations presenting the evidence have also discussed a suggestion that would certainly be opposed by lawyers and civil rights experts.

The police have considered calling for the disclosure in court of a defendant's criminal record in some cases. An example given yesterday was that of an alleged shoplifter who claims that he simply forgot to pay. The prosecution could be allowed to tell the jury of any previous shoplifting convictions.

Police have argued that the judicial system has leaned too far towards the defendant and the balance should be redressed. At the same time senior officers have publicly accepted the need for change in the appeal system and a number are known to be interested in

seeing England and Wales taking up part of the investigating magistrate system used on the Continent.

The police evidence to be presented in confidence today, is due to be published later this month but it is already known that the subcommittee on terrorism run by the Association of Chief Police Officers will also submit evidence calling for the continuation of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Evidence by the civil rights group Liberty calls for a reduction in the amount of time that suspects can be held under the act from up to seven days to a maximum of 24 hours. The group also calls for evidence also calls for confession statements to be admissible only if made or adopted in the presence of a solicitor.

The Council for Racial Equality calls for the creation of a new offence of racial violence and consideration of a guaranteed right to racially mixed juries.



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Children in deprived areas likely to have fewer opportunities to learn to play an instrument

School music lessons 'threatened by switch in funding'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOL music lessons are threatened by spending cuts and the change in the way schools are financed, according to a report today. Children in deprived inner city areas are likely to find it particularly difficult to learn a musical instrument as schools divert funds to what they see as more important needs, the National Foundation for Educational Research says.

There already appears to be a growing disparity in the funding of music lessons in different areas. Some local education authorities say this will become more marked because of the local management of schools, which allows heads and governors to decide how they spend their funds.

The report says that schools and parents in affluent areas are likely to be willing and able to pay for tuition. Schools in less well off parts might have other priorities and, where charges are made, par-

ents might be discouraged from asking for tuition for their children. More than a third of the 108 of the 120 local education authorities in England and Wales that replied to the survey said changes in funding, often because of the threat of community charge capping, had resulted in cuts in the amount of money available for instrumental lessons.

The biggest cuts were in staffing, with metropolitan areas showing a 15 per cent cut over the three years to 1991-2. Seventeen authorities reported increases in funding from councils, parents and school funds. Just under a third have begun to charge for tuition.

During 1990-1, 467,500 children were taught to play an instrument, almost 7 per cent of the school population in England and Wales. Music teachers visited 97 per cent of secondary schools, 63 per cent of primary schools and 16 per cent of special schools.

While the main orchestral instruments dominate lessons, slightly fewer were given in strings, brass and woodwind. More were given in electric guitars and non-Western instruments such as steel pans, the sitar, tabla, a pair of small Indian drums played with the hands, and the harmonium, a small Indian reed organ.

The trombone was the only instrument taught by all the local authorities in the survey. Only 37 per cent taught the piano, partly because some schools do not have pianos and, because group lessons are difficult, parents choose private lessons at home.

The report suggests that school music lessons could be safeguarded if they were financed by a central government grant. "In a time of such insecurity, a national funding system would help to ensure that in all areas of England and Wales the music will play on," the report says.

The demise of the Inner London Education Authority two years ago threatened music across the capital and led to the formation of the Foundation for Young Musicians, funded by £100,000 from the education department, tuition fees from the new local education authorities and fees of £8 a month from one in three parents.

When Every Note Counts (NFER, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 2DQ; £7)

Leading article, page 19



Hitting the right note: pupils playing the widely-taught trombone at St Mary's Hall school, Brighton

A flexible friend of note

Richard Morrison sings the praises of the trombone

SO THE trombone has been officially acknowledged as the king of instruments, taught by every local authority. Trombonists, even lapsed trombonists such as myself, have been saying as much for centuries.

Which other instrument requires the player to read treble clef (in brass band music), alto clef (for those excruciatingly high solos in Schumann symphonies), tenor clef and bass clef? It is the ideal tool of music education.

With a trombone in hand, a young musician can enter almost any medium. Orchestra, jazz band, reggae group, the Marines, the Salvation Army: all utilise the trombone in one or more of its many moods.

And what moods! Which other instrument could issue Mahler's baleful summons to Death in his Sixth Symphony, yet also, in the hands of a Tommy Dorsey or Glenn Miller, glide sweetly through some soporific ditty of the swing era?

The table shows the percentage of local authorities in England and Wales offering lessons

	% LEAs 90/91	% LEAs 85/87	% diff
Trombone	100	100	-
Trumpet	99	100	-1
Flute	99	100	-1
Violin	99	99	-
Cello	99	99	-
Clarinet	98	100	-2
Saxophone	97	99	-2
Horn	96	100	-4
Oboe	95	100	-5
Viola	85	99	-14
Tuba	92	98	-6
Double bass	91	100	-9
Bassoon	88	90	-2
Brass	90	98	-8
Percussion	66	68	-2
Guitar (class)	48	48	-
Recorders	45	33	+12
Guitar (elec/bass)	37	38	-1
Piano	34	27	+7
Voice	33	30	+3
Keyboard	27	18	+9
Synth/elec	21	24	-3
Steel band	18	8	+10
Harp	18	8	+10
Tabla	15	8	+7
Harmonium	15	8	+7
Sitar	11	19	-8
Early instrmt	5	9	-4
Other	5	9	-4

LEA=Local Education Authorities
Source: National Foundation for Educational Research

Hill farms grants to change

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to prevent overgrazing of heather moorland and other hill landscapes have been proposed by the government. These would involve the creation of environmentally sensitive zones and changes to the way hill farmers are subsidised.

Some 66,000 hill farmers received £120 million this year in payments of up to £8.75 per ewe and £63.30 per head of cattle, of which 25 per cent was met out of the European Community budget. Without the subsidy, much hill farming would be unviable. Farmers qualify for the grants in areas where agricultural performance is hampered by climate, altitude, steep slopes and poor soil.

John Gummer, agriculture minister, with the agriculture departments of Scotland and Northern Ireland, has proposed that the payments should continue on a headage basis but be scaled to shift the balance in favour of those who stock at lower densities.

Sex trial jury visits forest site

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE jury in a black magic trial at the Central Criminal Court was taken to Epping Forest yesterday to see where two sisters, aged 10 and 14, were allegedly abused.

Accompanied by Mr Justice Turner, the nine men and three women were shown a gypsy's memorial stone, where, the girls claim, they were repeatedly sexually abused and babies were killed and buried. The jurors looked intently at the 4ft memorial, and its inscription, reading: "Gypsy Rodney Smith MBE was born here March 31st 1860, died August 4th 1947."

On Wednesday, the prosecution said that the sisters were taken at night from their east London home to the monument and made to drink rabbit blood as adults, some naked, chanted "Lucifer".

The court heard yesterday that police investigations at the forest had revealed nothing to support the girls' claims.

Five people, including the girls' parents, face 20 charges, including rape and buggery. The case continues today.

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Unbowed Cash trumpets his 'German dominance' warning



Cash: implications for democracy trouble him

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

William Cash, defeated in the Tory backbench battle over Europe, was unbowed and unrepentant yesterday as he gave a warning that federalism was looming and said that Britain could become a mere province in a Europe dominated by Germany.

The war of words became a battle of the books as Mr Cash, deposed by Sir Norman Fowler as chairman of the Conservative European affairs committee, and Sir Fred Catherwood, a vice-president of the European parliament and Conservative MEP, raced into print before the Maastricht summit to put the opposing cases on European integration. In his book *Pro-Europe*, Sir Fred writes of the malign influence of the hangover of nationalism that is bedeviling Britain's relations in Europe and threatening her interests. He argues the case for giving the European parliament co-legislative powers with the council of ministers, saying that it is the only way to force the legislative process out from behind the council's closed doors.

He says that a strong monetary union is a vital British interest, but it cannot be achieved without an equally strong democratic structure to match it. That cannot be based on the block votes, behind closed doors, of junior ministers "flitting in and out" of meetings of the council and asking national

parliaments to rubber stamp their decisions. Sir Fred writes of an English nationalism, "a frame of mind so emotional, suspicious and antagonistic that it makes it very hard to safeguard the British interest where joint action with our European partners is the only effective way to protect it."

Mr Cash, in his book *Against a Federal Europe - The Battle for Britain*, argues against the Delors compromise that would allow member states to agree to the principle of a monetary union, but give Britain the right to join later. It should be rejected, he says, because it would allow the other countries to set the terms and

Britain would find herself under huge pressure to join. In time she would be forced in on their terms.

It would also represent an acceptance that the use of the veto has been abandoned, Mr Cash says. "This would hand a huge victory to the federalists who could centralise the Community even further, knowing that the member state veto was dead and buried."

Mr Cash says that the implications for Britain of the political union proposed in the current drafts are more significant than when James II was forced from the throne in 1688. "The transfer of sovereignty at that time and the subsequent Hanoverian succession was against the background of precious little or no democracy.

What is now proposed is the transfer of powers on a truly momentous scale with damaging implications for our democracy."

Mr Cash charts the influence of Germany in the proposed treaties on political and economic union. "It was Germany which pressed hardest for more powers to be granted to the European parliament at the expense of the national parliaments as the price for monetary union on German terms."

Against a Federal Europe by William Cash (Duckworth; £7.99). *Pro-Europe* by Sir Fred Catherwood (Inter-Varsity Press; £3.95).

Leading article, page 19



Sir Fred: EC parliament must have more power

Ministers putting miners' safety at risk, says Labour

By PETER MULLIGAN

MINISTERS were accused last night of jeopardising the safety of coalminers by scrapping the limits on hours worked underground in the run-up to privatisation.

Frank Dobson, shadow energy minister, protested at the plan to end the limit of seven-and-a-half hours by repealing the Coal Mines Regulations Act, 1908, in which it is enshrined.

The proposal prompted furious clashes during second reading of the coal industry bill which also adds to the cash available to the industry for redundancy and restructuring.

John Wakeham, energy secretary, said that the fears were unnecessary and insisted: "The government will not bring forward any measure that will prejudice safety." He promised not to allow the repeal to proceed unless a European directive, covering similar ground and now being negotiated, was in place instead. If that was not agreed, the 1908 act would stay and the government would consider what to do, he said. He acknowledged, however, that he had no other proposals at present.

Mr Dobson told him: "Ministers whose most likely indus-

trial accident is to trip on a carpet or cut their finger on the sharp edge of a piece of paper, think they know better about safety for a miner working a coal cutter three miles under the North Sea off the Durham coast."

He said that the European directive set minimal standards for all work in all workplaces and did not pretend to cover work in specially hazardous workplaces. It also allowed Britain to apply tougher laws.

Michael Howard, employment secretary, was "foaming at the mouth" against the directive, he said, denouncing it as a gross interference in British affairs and trying to get other ministers in Europe not to debate it at all.

But Mr Wakeham said that everyone in the industry knew that the limit - set when there were 1,000 fatalities a year in the industry as opposed to 11 last year - was too rigid a constraint. Nobody wanted to see efforts hampered by the "antiquated legislation of a bygone era". He disclosed, to scornful laughter from the Labour benches, that he had

received a message from the management of British Coal who were "incensed" at Mr Dobson's claims about safety made earlier in the day on the radio.

He emphasised that the industry faced challenges over the next ten years, with the power generators increasingly turning to environmentally friendly gas. The government would not hinder the development of a competitive market. Ministers were not convinced by "doomsters" who claimed that coal not extracted now would be inaccessible in the future, he said.

"It is foolish to subsidise coal extraction now when improvements in mining technology are likely to make much of that coal exploitable on an economic basis for decades later," British Coal had to fight for every ton of business and further productivity gains were essential.

The bill also increases the funds available for restructuring and redundancy from £1,500 million to £3,000 million up to 1995-6, a move that led Mr Dobson to allege that the industry was about to be sacrificed on the altar of privatisation.



Dobson: Tories concentrating on privatisation

Postal workers attempt £7m Revenue fraud

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CASUAL post office workers have tried to defraud the Inland Revenue of £7.6 million as part of a highly organised operation in sorting offices across the country.

Cheques made payable to the Inland Revenue were altered to false names such as *Intendi Revendi* or *Jildalidi Reyedite* before being paid into bank and building society accounts. In one case a cheque for £175,000 was accepted by a building society for what turned out to be a false account.

By the end of August there had been attempts to cash 518 cheques and towards the end of last year the number of fraudulent encashments was running at 20 a week, according to a report by Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Yesterday's report also shows that value-added tax inspectors uncovered frauds and mistakes among traders totalling £1.1 billion and that the number of taxpayers who became untraceable increased by 30 per cent, leading to £92.1 million being written off by the Inland Revenue.

Although the workers in postal sorting offices tried to cash cheques totalling £7.6 million, action by the banks, building societies and the Inland Revenue prevented £5.8 million leaving the banking system. Where people had succeeded in cashing the cheques, liability has been shared by the banks and building societies. The measures taken to combat the fraud have reduced the number of stolen cheques, though in July two a week were still being taken.

As the size of the attempted

fraud grew, the Inland Revenue requested the board of the Post Office to improve security arrangements at sorting offices.

"The Post Office have introduced various measures to improve selection and recruitment of casual staff and surveillance and supervision in their sorting offices. Police arrests have been made in this country and abroad, although these cannot be linked solely to frauds against the Inland Revenue," Sir John said in his review of the accounts of the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise.

Checks by Customs and Excise staff on 1.7 million traders for VAT purposes uncovered underpayments ranging from £300 to £3,800. The value of underpayments discovered last year was £1.1 billion, but the report said that the difficulty in carrying out checks meant that it was impossible to be sure of the full amount of evasion of VAT.

Arrears of value-added tax rose by 3.9 per cent in 1989-90 to £977 million, but the Customs and Excise blamed most of the increase on the general economic climate facing traders, with high interest rates affecting business cashflow.

The amount of general taxation written off by the Inland Revenue rose by £43 million to £500 million in 1989-90. About £18 million of the increase was due to insolvency, but £22 million was a result of a 30 per cent increase in taxpayers becoming untraceable.



Major rejects Scots plea

John Major dismissed demands for devolution for Scotland. At question time, the prime minister emphasised the government's commitment to the union and said: "The process of government is a system of government, not a system of government."

Army move is final

Decisions taken to amalgamate four Scottish regiments were final and prolonged debate about their future could be damaging, the Earl of Arran, armed forces minister, told the House of Lords. It would be misleading to suggest that the merger of the Royal Scots and the King's Own Scottish Borderers, and of the Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders was other than finally decided.

More visit N Ireland

Ulster's tourist industry is picking up despite the troubles, MPs heard at question time. Brian Mawhinney, minister of state for the province, said that last year there were more than 1.1 million visitors. They spent £153 million.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Competition and service (utilities) bill, second reading. Tuesday: Education (schools) bill, second reading. Wednesday and Thursday: Debate on the European Community. Friday: Debate on nuclear defence. The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Local government bill, second reading. Tuesday: Charities bill, second reading. Wednesday: Debates on the police and on children with special educational needs. Thursday: Further and higher education bill, second reading. Parliament today: Commons (9.30): Debate on citizen's charter.

Big rise in safety penalties

By JOHN WINDER

STEEP increases in penalties for breaches of safety regulations at oil and gas installations, whether offshore or onshore, are included in a bill given an unopposed second reading last night in the House of Lords.

Viscount Ullswater, employment minister, said that the government was concerned about the level of fines imposed by magistrates and there would be a higher maximum penalty of £20,000 when an operator was found guilty of offences showing a general failure to manage health and safety adequately. Such offences were more serious than specific offences because they could lead to a number of serious or fatal accidents.

Maximum fines for failing to comply with notices requiring improvement or breach of prohibition notices would be ten times more than now, at £20,000 or six months' imprisonment, or both.

In those cases, offences disclosed at best culpable neglect and at worst deliberate flouting of the law by employers, despite specific issues having been brought to their attention by an inspector.

French attitude angers Heseltine

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, environment secretary, accused the French government yesterday of deliberately refusing to approve the setting up of a European environment agency unless the European parliament is sited permanently in Strasbourg.

He complained to the Commons environment committee that French ministers were using the dispute about the site as a bargaining counter in the negotiations.

The government has been campaigning for a Community-wide agency to gather the facts about pollution so that accurate comparisons can be made between environmental standards in all member states. Ministers feel aggrieved that Britain implements EC anti-pollution laws more faithfully than most states and yet faces harsher criticism.

Mr Heseltine said: "We are dismayed by the position of the French government which is deliberately trading the

environmental agency for the location of the European parliament in Strasbourg. We regret what they are doing."

The committee chairman, Sir Hugh Rossi, said he believed other member states were equally disturbed by the French attitude.



Heseltine: French trading agency for parliament

NHS efficiency record attacked

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLEAR targets for efficiency savings in the national health service's £4 billion-a-year supplies operation were urged yesterday by an influential all-party group of MPs.

They said that the service's purchasing record was disappointing and pointed out that economies of only 1 per cent would release £40 million for health spending elsewhere.

A report from the Commons public accounts committee said that the health service had a long record of failure in managing the supply to hospitals of a great variety of products ranging from syringes and vaccines to paper towels and rubber gloves. It regretted the lack of progress

since the last investigation seven years ago and urged health service chiefs to follow the lead of private sector companies, such as Marks & Spencer and Boots The Chemists, in getting a grip on the buying, storage and distribution of stock.

The most glaring weakness was the lack of regular, up-to-date and accurate information about the service's main suppliers, product lines purchased and comparisons of prices paid within and between regional health authorities. There was virtually no usable management informa-

tion about 90 per cent of health service supplies, which included specialised equipment and services, and most regional health authorities were unable to list the top 50 items by value purchased in the past two years.

Drawing on a separate report by the National Audit Office, the MPs are critical of the latitude given to local managers over purchasing decisions. In one case, they paid 25 per cent over the odds after refusing to use a national contract. However, the committee notes that the health service management executive has begun to tighten control over purchasing.

□ Duncan Nichol, NHS chief

executive, responded to the report, yesterday by admitting that the old arrangements had been unsatisfactory and by announcing the appointment of Terry Hunt, regional general manager of North East Thames, as the first national director of the new supplies authority.

The new authority, which will become operative next year, will assume responsibility for NHS supplies from the separate supplies departments of regional and district health authorities.

Commons public accounts committee, 42nd report, 1990-1: National Health Service Supplies in England (Stationary Office, HC466, £8.90)

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 1991

Major orders help for the 'human shield' victims

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to pay for psychological help for British hostages held in Kuwait or Iraq as a result of a study, published today, which shows that many of them need expert support to cope with the aftermath of their ordeal.

The research findings persuaded the prime minister to approve a £70,000 grant for a psychiatric clinic to treat some of the worst affected hostages, Edward Heath, who helped to negotiate the release of some hostages, and who contributed to the study, played a crucial role in influencing Mr. Major's decision.

The study of almost 400 of the "human shield" hostages is the biggest carried out into their experiences. It shows that about a quarter are so badly psychologically scarred that they require expert help, but few are receiving it and feel neglected and rejected, say Jeffrey Easton and Stuart Turner, authors of the study.

Mr. Major said: "Severe disasters and traumatic stress can have a devastating effect on survivors and their families. The research undertaken by Dr. Turner and Dr. Easton has shown just how severe and long-lasting these problems can be. The government's response... is evidence of our commitment to providing disaster victims with real and effective support through the NHS."

The report in the *British Medical Journal* says some of the effects on the hostages could have been reduced if they had received adequate support when they returned to the UK, but in many cases such support was lacking. For them and many others who lost everything, financial compensation was an urgent priority.

The physical and mental health of many hostages suf-

fered between the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in October 1990 and their release up to four months later, according to the postal questionnaire.

About 1,200 Britons were taken hostage. Some were assaulted and several women were raped by Iraqi soldiers. Many hostages were moved by armed guards to military and chemical sites, where they were told they would be the first to die if the allies attacked.

Many were held in primitive and insanitary conditions, eating scraps of food contaminated by rat faeces. Eight out of ten of those in the study said they felt they might be killed.

About a quarter of the married couples in the survey felt their marriages were damaged by the experience but just as many became closer as a result. Two thirds of the children involved were affected by nightmares, fears of uniforms, bed wetting and impaired educational performance.

"The losses of property, work, financial independence and accommodation were important problems for many of the hostages. It is likely that the effects of these losses on psychological as well as social wellbeing could have been reduced by appropriate support on return to Britain," Dr. Easton and Dr. Turner say in the journal.

Dr. Easton is a GP at the Harcourt medical centre in Salisbury, Wiltshire. He was medical adviser with Mr. Heath's mission to Baghdad in October, 1990. Dr. Turner is senior clinical lecturer in psychiatry at Middlesex hospital, central London.

They said yesterday they were "absolutely delighted" with the government grant which would enable the clinic at the Middlesex to offer more help to the hostages.



Keeping track: Amanda Stocklin of Sotheby's with a German locomotive and station to be sold next week with other tinplate trains and accessories

Ostrich farmers ruffle feathers of Chickens' Lib

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

OSTRICHES, the latest and most exotic addition to the British farmyard, have opened up a new front in the long-running conflict between farmers and the animal welfare lobby. Compassion in World Farming and Chickens' Lib said they feared ostriches could soon be subjected to

the "horrors of long-distance transport, abattoir slaughter and even intensive farming".

Their protest coincides with the first seminar to promote ostrich farming, near Upper Wardington in Oxfordshire today, organised by Francis Ayres and his wife, Linda, who run Britain's only ostrich farm. Some 20 farmers, including several from The

Netherlands, are expected to attend. Philip Lydney, of Compassion in World Farming, said: "We question the suitability of ostriches, which are still relatively wild creatures, for modern commercial agriculture. Even animals such as pigs and cattle, which have been domesticated for thousands of years, can suffer terribly."

Mr. Ayres said: "Ostriches have

been domesticated for more than 100 years in Africa and we see no greater welfare problems than in rearing cattle, pigs, sheep or ducks."

The agriculture ministry has yet to license ostrich meat - the bureaucrats are likely to classify it as "farmed game" - and the Ayreses do not expect to go into commercial production for another two years.

Sailor admits killing

A sailor yesterday admitted killing a shipmate during the Gulf war but said that he had feared for his own life and had acted in self defence.

Brian Craggs, a merchant seaman aged 28, told Oxford crown court that he slashed out with a knife to escape from his cabin and Maurice Foy, aged 38. He said Mr. Foy, of Dublin, had woken him by banging on the door and shouting: "I'm going to kill you."

The court has been told that the two had earlier argued in the mess bar of the supply ship Sir Galahad, which was moored in the Gulf. Mr. Craggs, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, denies murder. The trial continues today.

Bomb alert

Police investigating Animal Liberation Front claims that it had planted bombs at the Nottinghamshire homes of three directors of Northern Foods, a pork pie producer, found no trace of explosives.

Boy attacker

Police were hunting a boy aged about eight who stabbed a security guard at a C & A store in Reading.

Holy greeting

Gwilym Richards, a postmaster, is dealing with a flood of requests for Christmas cards to be postmarked at his shop in the village of Bethlem, Dyfed.

Global Warming. How much of the responsibility rests at your door?



None, you may think. In fact, each of us contributes to Global Warming in dozens of small ways.

Every time we flick on a light switch we draw electricity from the grid. Most of that electricity is made by burning fossil fuels - coal, oil or gas. Whenever we turn up the gas under a saucepan, we are burning a fossil fuel.

This results in the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere.

Human activity is pouring CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at an unprecedented rate, which is likely to throw the world's climate out of balance.

Why should we worry about Global Warming? If it means longer, hotter summers and shorter winters, isn't it to be welcomed?

Unfortunately, not all of the effects are likely to be pleasant. If left unchecked Global Warming could change existing weather patterns across the world.

Areas now vulnerable to extreme weather con-

ditions will be affected even more. Rising sea levels will pose a serious threat to low-lying areas. The speed with which these changes will take place may mean species will be unable to cope and will die out altogether.

Faced with the possibility of such serious worldwide effects, what can be done to help?

The answer is, a very great deal. The world's

Governments are taking Global Warming very seriously. The UK Government is taking a leading role in negotiating the global agreement on climate change due to be signed during the Earth Summit in 1992. The Government will make sure the necessary action is taken within the UK. And you can do a great deal too. Starting now.

It may seem surprising but about one third of the electricity produced in our power stations is used in our homes.

Businesses, industry and transport all need to be more energy efficient and this is being tackled too. But, it is actually in our homes that each of us can make our greatest contribution to energy efficiency.

By making relatively straightforward changes in the way we use energy, it's estimated that we could cut domestic fuel bills by 20% or more, with a corresponding drop in the amount of CO₂ produced.

Obvious practical action includes things like insulating cavity walls, lagging the loft and pipes, draught-proofing doors and windows and buying modern energy-efficient appliances. But there are also lots of simpler things like not overfilling the kettle - you only heat the water you actually need.

For more details about how to make your home more energy efficient, please telephone 0345 247 347, for only the cost of a local call, or send this coupon to: Helping the Earth Begins at Home, P.O. Box 200 Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ZZ.

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Booked: the Domesday snapshot of life in 1085

Domesday Book to have a sequel

A modern version of the 11th century survey, minus eels and jesters, is planned, Christopher Warman writes

A PROJECT to create a new Domesday Book of land ownership, use and value in the year 2000 was launched in London yesterday.

William the Conqueror provided a snapshot of English life with the original in 1085 but failed to keep it up to date. "Domesday 2000" would be a constantly updated record of property throughout Britain.

An army of clerks compiled the first Domesday Book in about a year, cataloguing about 13,000 places on 800 sheepskin parchment. They recorded the existence of a jocular female only known from a jester at the time, and how many live eels water-mill owners had to pay the Crown. Windsor, a little place farmed by King William, reportedly had one liam, one slave and a fish-pond. The Great and Little Domesday Books, re-bound in pigskin for their 900th anniversary in 1985, are kept at the Public Record Office. The new Domesday Book would be in a computer database, and is unlikely to contain such immortals of everyday life.

A £20,000 feasibility study has been sponsored by Capital & Counties, a property company, whose Domesday listing would include shopping centres and office assets of £1.346 million. It will be carried out by Clive Sabel, a research fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, with support from the land economy

department at Cambridge University and the land surveying department of the Polytechnic of East London.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, as chief clerk for Her Majesty's environment department, has also indicated support.

Much of the information exists in Land Registry and Inland Revenue Valuation Office records, for example, but it is not all accessible and reliable, according to Peter Dale, reader in land surveying at the polytechnic. Technology to bring it together was largely in place and Domesday 2000 was "about dominating the technology," he said.

What made William the Conqueror want to know more about the resources he was to manage 1,000 years ago is "as relevant today". Ray Moorman, managing director of Capital & Counties, says: "Other countries are further advanced in developing national land information systems," he said. "We in the UK should know more about our land and property."

The need for a land information system is shown by demands from central government that local authorities document their assets, and by an environment department initiative recommending that all polluted land be recorded.

A new record would, project leaders say, benefit councils, utilities and developers, and firms selling home maintenance services.

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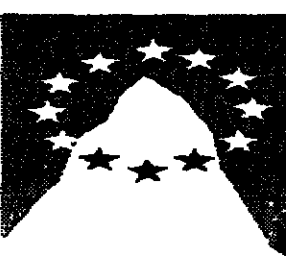
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German left may block Euro pacts

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY'S main opposition, the Social Democratic party, is threatening to block ratification of European Community treaties on political and monetary union unless more power is given to the European parliament than is currently on offer. At the same time, the German government is saying that Strasbourg is to be given "the power of co-decision", which Britain says it will not accept.

The rival statements were made in Bonn yesterday after EC foreign ministers met at Noordwijk in The Netherlands to work on outstanding problems before the Maastricht summit. The SPD, according to Heidemarie Wijsmuller-Zeil, a left-winger and pacifist spokeswoman on European affairs, was far from impressed by the outcome of the Noordwijk conclave. "If no



COUNTDOWN TO MAASTRICHT

changes are made giving the European Parliament more rights, the German Bundestag cannot say 'yes' to ratification," she said. "The SPD will not be satisfied with minimal rights for the Parliament."

She said that if the European Council, which represents member governments, were given more powers

through economic and monetary union, then the Parliament would have to be given new powers as well or the result would be undemocratic. The current position was that the council was to be made stronger than the parliament, she said, and the SPD would not back the treaties unless this was changed. Without SPD support, the government cannot obtain the two-thirds majority it needs in the Bundestag to ratify them.

According to Frau Ursula Seiler-Albring, the junior foreign minister in charge of European affairs, the SPD was wrong to worry. "The Parliament will undoubtedly have a power of co-decision in legislation in future," she said. "We achieved real progress."

Her SPD counterpart remained unconvinced. The government had set false priorities and, instead of pressing the case for the Parliament, had frittered away its energy on "secondary" issues such as transferring sovereignty in interior policy and in boosting the "nonsensical" Franco-German brigade.

The future of the proposed brigade as a nucleus of a future European army was one of the main areas of discussion between Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and President Francois Mitterrand of France when they began the 58th Franco-German summit meeting in Bonn yesterday. By the time the summit ends at lunch-time today, the two leaders want to agree ways of combining their efforts to ensure agreement on political and economic union in Maastricht.

Brussels: Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are expected to sign "association agreements" today with the EC, guaranteeing them greater market access to the community through to the end of the decade (Tom Walker writes). All three countries have had eight rounds of talks over the last year with the European Commission, which has negotiated the accords on behalf of the member states.

The deals have hit snags in sensitive EC trade areas like agriculture, textiles and steel, and these have been partially resolved by fixing "triangular trade deals", giving the Soviet Union credits with which to buy East European produce. Member states feared a wave of cheap imports could seriously damage EC industry.

Cabinet ducks row, page 1
Leading article, page 19
Political sketch, page 24

Greek marbles hope is dashed

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

TIM Renton, the arts minister, yesterday killed off any lingering Greek hopes that the European Commission could achieve what Martina Mercuri and Neil Kinnoch have so far failed to do — bring back the Elgin Marbles to Athens.

Mr Renton's assurance followed an EC culture ministers meeting at which the Commissioner for culture, Jean Dondelinger of Luxembourg, again had to admit that his department had failed to come up with proposed rules on stolen treasures in the EC.

The much-heralded "directive for the restitution of national treasures after 1992" is proving almost as elusive as the French proposals for the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy. But Mr Dondelinger did promise the ministers a draft would be with them before Christmas — and all sides concerned said it would not be retrospective.

Greece's campaign to get its 2,500-year-old marbles back, pinched from the Parthenon early last century by the marauding seventh earl of Elgin, gained prominence while the former actress, Melina Mercouri, was in the culture seat.

But since she was replaced by the less emotional Anna Psarouda-Benaki the cause has waned, and even Mr

Renton himself was able to visit Greece this autumn without the subject coming up.

"The proposals certainly won't be retrospective, and the Greek minister won't expect them to be, good arguer though she is," Mr Renton said. An irritated aide to Mr Dondelinger confirmed the efforts to ensure agreement on political and economic union in Maastricht.

He said the directive will only seek to prevent the smuggling of national treasure in the barrier-free 1992 market and will be purely forward-looking. It is unlikely a latter-day Thomas Bruce will be able to ship the marbles out of the British Museum unnoticed.

Meanwhile, the ministers confirmed their complaint, to the United States on a proposed new quota system for artists' visas, had successfully postponed the legislation's passage. The American authorities had been persuaded to limit the number of work visas granted to EC theatre groups, symphonies and the like following complaints from its Actors' Equity Union — a move that would have caused havoc for the booking schedules of Britain's orchestras and theatre companies. The quota plan will now be reconsidered by the Americans in April.

Romania seeks a refuge in capitalist policy

New currency rates are being used to loosen the black market's grip, writes Adrian Foreman in Bucharest

ILLEGAL money-changers, with a formidable array of languages and gestures have gone from outside the Intercontinental hotel in Bucharest, leaving a peculiar air of calm.

Romania's latest attempt to compete in the capitalist world — direct convertibility of the Romanian currency — had caused the change. The government hopes its newly set rate of 180 lei to the dollar (about 288 lei to the pound) will funnel funds away from Romania's estimated \$1 billion (£560 million) black economy to service a small but increasing foreign debt and trade deficit, attracting more Western aid and investment at the same time.

The move came about because the government also needs hard currency for food and fuel imports. Romania's hopes of its state privatisation programme easing traditional winter shortages has backfired. Many peasant farmers reaped record harvests in high profit corn for animal feed. Such food crops as were planted were not all harvested in time, partly because newly privatised farm machinery enterprises sought profits outside agri-

culture. The European Community is sending wheat and potatoes to prevent limited famine.

The government, in a return to communist-style authoritarianism which it called an unusual response to unusual circumstances, established commissions under local mayors and prefects to enforce planting and harvesting. More than 4,000 soldiers have been sent into the fields to help. Romania's 23 million people, many freezing in their blocks of flats because heating fuel has run out, have been warned that currency convertibility will ease some hardships, but cause others. "But it won't be suffering for nothing," Teodor Stolojan, the prime minister, said. "The system won't sustain itself any more without further reform."

Until last weekend, an artificial official exchange rate of 60 lei to the dollar — part of the system inherited from communism — made domestic prices seem sensible but exports ridiculously expensive. But since February, larger traders have been allowed into a limited currency market which peaked at 300 lei to the dollar — making foreign



Price hike: wads of paper money are now needed to pay for petrol in Bucharest

trade more realistic, but domestic prices ridiculously cheap. A 30 lei litre of petrol, for example, worth 28p under the old official rate, was valued at 6p at the market rate. Under the new,

unified exchange rate, it was still only 10p a litre. Long queues formed at petrol stations, in expectation of a fourfold price rise. The government has imposed inflation-linked wages control —

except for the Jiu Valley coalminers, who staged angry demonstrations in Bucharest in late September against price surges. Fears of a new bout with miners remain.

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Emu: who is right?

THIS week, Terence Higgins, a respected Conservative MP specialising in the economy and former Treasury minister, took issue with an editorial in *The Times* which said that binding rules would not apply to national economies until the third and final stage of the Emu programme. The present draft of the Emu treaty offered an escape clause for any country to drop out just before the third stage.

Mr Higgins, in a letter to *The Times* yesterday, said that this interpretation of the Dutch proposed text was "dangerous" and argued that the treaty imposes binding fiscal limits on countries running excessive deficits from

Tory MP Terence Higgins and *The Times* disagree on the extent of EC control over Britain's economy. George Brock looks at the arguments

government deficits". Procedures for establishing whether a deficit is excessive are laid down; the draft offers the option that the decision to declare a deficit excessive could be made by qualified majority vote. Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the clause say that the ministers' council could recommend to a misbehaving government that it should amend its ways. The draft says the council can only "make

sure delegate to the Emu treaty, is proposing that the opening sentence of the clause should not say that governments "shall avoid" excessive deficits but should "endeavour" to avoid them. Treasury officials said yesterday that they were confident of having the amendment accepted, since the principle that rules on economic performance would not be backed by sanctions in the second stage was agreed all round.

A state which wanted to run a deficit outside the agreed limits would face political pressure to come back into line but no punishment for failing to do so. Most economists at the European Commission are tearing their hair out over the state of the Greek economy, but there is precious little that they can do about it. EC governments do not always give the community the power to enforce its edicts. In the current Emu treaty, convergence in the second stage can only be enforced by publicity if persuasion fails. Truly powerful sanctions to overrule national governments and parliaments come into play only if a economically-qualified state makes the momentous choice to join Stage Three and merge its currency with others.

Mr Higgins said yesterday that if a country signed a treaty obligation, it would be legally bound, whether or not it could be forced to comply. "Signing a treaty means signing a treaty, it seems to me," he said. "Unless everyone is acting in totally bad faith and signs treaties intending to ignore them, a country which signs is bound by the conditions of the treaty. There is a legal obligation." But in our view that legal obligation is not as onerous or "dangerous" as Mr Higgins asserts.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13 1991



AN OMEN FOR MAASTRICHT

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Soviet republics agree new union

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev and leaders from seven of the remaining 12 Soviet republics met outside Moscow yesterday to discuss the future of an increasingly depleted and dispirited union. Hanging over them was a warning by Grigori Yavlinsky, Mr Gorbachev's economic adviser, that the country faced "final collapse" in the new year and a threat by Mr Gorbachev to resign if no treaty on political union is in place by December.

By late afternoon, the participants were reported to

have reached agreement in principle on a political treaty successor to the new Union Treaty — supposed to supplement the economic treaty signed last month. Unconfirmed reports said that only "insignificant amendments and completion of certain articles" remained.

The preamble, said to have been approved in full, speaks of the "Union of Sovereign States". This, if the Interfax news agency is right, will be the Soviet Union's new name. Interfax said the most heated discussion concerned the

designation "Union", with some advocating federation or confederation.

The agenda of yesterday's meeting included several items left unresolved after the State Council's last meeting on November 4. These included the future shape of the foreign and interior ministries and new central government structures to support the inter-republic economic committee. The whole administrative system is in flux. Up to 80 central ministries and departments officially cease operations today, while others become interim agencies pending conclusion of the new treaty.

At the request of the Soviet parliament, the State Council was expected to discuss an emergency budget for the last two months of the year, for which an extra 60 billion roubles or more is expected to be needed to keep the country running. A briefing document prepared for yesterday's meeting by Mr Yavlinsky warned: "The entire responsibility before the people for the economy's final collapse, and for the difficulties faced by children, the old and the sick... rests directly with republic leaders and the Soviet president." He predicted what he called the dénouement in January or February next year.

Yeltsin wins spurs, page 18
Letters, page 19
Diary, page 18

Lenin in line for change of image

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AS RUSSIANS struggle to make sense of their country's turmoil by turning to the history books, hitherto secret material on Lenin is threatening to confuse them further.

A parliamentary panel investigating the files of the Communist party and the KGB has so far uncovered 3,724 letters and documents signed by Lenin, and between 6,000 and 7,000 papers which shed light on his life. Vladimir Zolotarev, a panel member, told the army daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* that the documents depicted an "unknown Lenin,

far removed from the publicly received image".

The circulation among academics of huge quantities of communist and KGB documents should, he said, help "rid our history of myths and lies" and fill many of the "blank spots" in Soviet textbooks. Professor Zolotarev did not say whether the Lenin would seem nicer or nastier. Some of the documents are likely to be remain secret, and the choice of which ones to release could have considerable political as well as academic implications.

Slivovitz and shells mix it at the front

Anne McElvoy finds the defiance of Vinkovci's Croat defenders being eroded as the Serbs scent a strategic prize

IT WAS not much of a welcome. As the blasted market town of Vinkovci came in sight, there grew the sound of shell and mortar fire and the firework whizz of rockets overhead. A flock of perturbed starlings rose into a leaden sky. One by one, the missiles contacted their targets. Then silence. Another day in eastern Croatia.

The guardsman manning the last checkpoint before the town centre looked at his watch and indicated the black smoke rising from the buildings. "Too early," he said. "Wait for half an hour — lunch-break."

The only reliable rhythm to fighting here is supplied by the needs of Serb irregulars to stop for food and tank up on *slivovitz*, the sustaining plum brandy which powers the war. From noon until two, the remaining residents of Vinkovci dash around gathering supplies and repairing what is left of their homes.

Vinkovci is the main support for the besieged city of Vukovar, ten miles away and reachable only by a maze of tunnels under cover of night. If Vukovar falls, the army will have control of eastern Croatia and access to Osijek. It would then be able to link Serb villages on the Croatian side to Serbia itself. Unfortunately for the 20,000 residents trapped inside, it is a prize worth fighting for.

Vinkovci would not last long after Vukovar. One does not walk around Vinkovci, one runs. The townspeople are now so practised at dodging attacks they barely wince at the bangs and rush of rockets in the next street. Our time-



Steps to despair: Serbian civilians yesterday awaiting rescue by Yugoslav army troops in Vukovar, still in Croatian hands despite three months' shelling

keeper had miscalculated slightly. The gunmen in the bushes on the edge of the town had evidently decided on a late lunch and a pre-prandial assault. As we sped towards the haven of the National Guard's headquarters, rockets hummed heavenwards again. Once more into the nearest ditch, an inevitable feature of a day's travel in the area. The rockets were followed by a token spray of shells.

In the headquarters, coffee and *slivovitz* appeared instantly on the table with no bill — the guardsmen's reward for anyone daft enough to consider visiting them. But the defiant cheerfulness of a few weeks ago had disappeared. Vukovar, said Milan Martinovic, fiddling glumly with his rifle, had received no ammunition since Monday. The army had cut the main supply route.

The miracle of Vukovar is that it is still in Croatian hands. For three months it has been pounded relentlessly. But attrition is taking its toll. Fighting in Vukovar has gone underground. There are reports of battles in cellars and sewers, of corpses rotting there, and of operations being conducted by torchlight without anaesthetic.

Dubrovnik exodus, page 1

Majority of Israelis 'back land for peace'

Jerusalem — The vast majority of Israelis are willing to trade the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in exchange for peace, an opinion poll revealed yesterday (Richard Beeston writes).

The survey, the first taken of Israeli public opinion since the dramatic shift away from the hardline policies of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, whose government opposes relinquishing any territory. Last night Mr Shamir was due to leave for a private visit to America, where his policies are likely to face intense criticism when he meets President Bush next week.

The poll, conducted by Tel Aviv University, was the largest ever in Israel. Of 80,766 Israelis, 74 per cent were prepared to give up land in the West Bank and Gaza in exchange for peace. Only 21 per cent opposed any territorial compromise. Before the Madrid talks, just 42 per cent of the population were in favour of giving up all or most of the occupied territories.

Rabbi's pet theory, page 1
High wire king, page 15

Major backed

John Major's proposal for a United Nations arms register to prevent an unacceptable build-up of weapons in Third World countries such as Iraq is expected to be approved by the UN within the next two weeks, according to British diplomatic sources. The proposal has met with widespread support, they said.

Austrian runner

Wolfgang "Bibi" Striecher, the Austrian transport minister, will run for the presidency in April elections after Kurt Waldheim's term of office ends. Bibi Striecher, aged 52, a Social Democrat, is a trained mechanical engineer. Dr Waldheim said in June he would not seek a second term. (Reuter)

Trunk route

Dortmund — Rush-hour traffic came to a standstill after an environmental group called Robin Wood, "planted" three trees on an autobahn in protest against damage caused by pollution to German forests. Two lanes of the highway were blocked and traffic tailed back for more than seven miles, police said. (Reuter)

Open secrets

Bonn — Victims of East Germany's security police won the right to see their secret files and find out who persecuted and betrayed them. The lower house of parliament approved a law allowing individuals to see their files but limiting access by police, the intelligence services, and journalists. (Reuter)

Markov link

Sofia — Bulgaria's secret services were directly involved in the "umbrella murder" in London 13 years ago of Georgi Markov, Leonid Katzamanski, chief of the investigation department, said on state television. Documents had been found linking agents directly to the exiled dissident's death. (Reuter)

Czech gardeners take pot luck

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

UP TO a tonne of seeds, allegedly marijuana with an estimated street value of more than £6,000 a kilo, has been legally sold in Czechoslovakia for just 50p a packet. Yesterday a sign went up on the door of the state-run gardening shop in Prague: "Hemp seeds sold out."

Drug advisers say the seeds, widely used in the Slovak textile industry, are in fact *Cannabis sativa*, and as effective as American marijuana or cannabis. But the police, who are refusing to investigate, say that the seeds, "probably imported from Romania" are not illegal.

Jiri Vacek, a drug specialist at the federal ministry of the interior, said: "If you only grow marijuana as a plant you will not face prosecution. As of now, we have had no complaints and no reports of a criminal offence." Dr Jiri Presl, the head of Czechoslovakia's sole drug addiction treatment centre, said he tipped off a local magazine about the shop after being outraged at the "paradoxical" arrest of three teenagers allegedly caught growing cannabis plants in their garden.

Under communist laws, which are still valid, possession "for one's own needs" is not an offence while

"production" is. The disclosure is bound to be embarrassing for the ministry of the interior, which is setting up a new anti-narcotics squad with the help of the British government.

Dr Presl, an advisor to the health ministry, said: "The chemicals are in the seeds. It's enough to put them over the fire and inhale the smoke — you do not have to actually grow the plant. This shop is selling legal drugs. Under the communist regime, it was not possible to do anything about it. But now the whole situation is laughable: on one side we are punishing three young people for growing it in their own garden and then selling kilos of seeds in a state shop."

The Czech newspaper, *Mlada Fronta Dnes*, quoted an unnamed "specialist from the federal interior ministry" as saying: "According to the international drugs list, marijuana leaves are only produced at the top of the hemp plant. Good ropes are made from hemp and people use it for feeding exotic birds."

A bewildered shopkeeper, who refused to be named, said the seeds had been immensely popular: "Young people are flocking to buy these seeds. Sometimes we have 20 people in an hour."

Pay protests keep Mitterrand at bay

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

STRIKING French social workers and nurses stepped up their protests yesterday, underlining the public malaise besetting President Mitterrand's government. Discontent remains high despite his promises to reform the constitution, including a possible reduction of his own term from seven years to five.

About 500 social workers, mostly women, staged a sit-in on the steps of the Opéra Garnier building for several hours in pouring rain yesterday and scuffled with CRS riot police in an effort to dramatise a nine-week strike for higher wages and better working conditions. They accused the government of Edith Cresson, the prime minister, of refusing to negotiate. The CRS evicted scores of demonstrators from inside the Opéra building but failed to clear them from its steps.

In the Champs Elysées scores of nurses formed a cordon across the avenue, disrupting traffic near the Arc de Triomphe, to highlight their fight for higher pay and better conditions. The riot police refrained from using tear gas, to avoid repeating ugly scenes last month when police used rough tactics against the nurses.

Yesterday's demonstrations

followed a strike by electronic engineers servicing computers at the two main Paris airports that severely disrupted air traffic over the Armistice Day holiday weekend. Political experts say the agitation in key sectors of French industry shows that Mitterrand's announcement on Sunday that he will usher in constitutional reforms by the end of 1992 will not silence critics who say that at the age of 75 he is losing his grip.

On Sunday the government faces a demonstration in Paris called by doctors and others in the health sector. Between 300,000 and 400,000 are expected to join the march. But Jean-Louis Bianco, the minister for social affairs, said the Socialist government would not be intimidated.

Bonn moves to help aliens

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AS DETAILS of a particularly cynical and cruel attack on a Vietnamese worker in Leipzig emerged yesterday, the German cabinet confirmed the appointment of a new aliens' ombudsman, with more powers, a larger budget and a bigger staff.

The attack on the Vietnamese man was carried out by six masked skinheads, who smashed down the door of his flat, hit and kicked him, dragged him to the cellar, and slashed his thigh with a knife. Earlier the same day, four skinheads burst into the home of a Vietnamese couple, smashed all the furniture and made off with £5,500 in marks and dollars.

The Vietnamese were among the few nationalities allowed into communist East Germany with a minimum of

formality. Around 60,000 worked there, largely doing menial jobs, but many have left since unification. Those who remain are not asylum-seekers or recent arrivals. Police believe that they are being singled out for attack by right-wing hooligans because they are easy targets who often have large cash savings hidden away.

Responding to a spate of attacks which have severely damaged Germany's image, the cabinet appointed Conelia Schmalz-Jacobsen to head the ombudsman's office, with a staff raised from four to 16 and a budget of DM400,000 (£140,000). She said Germany's international reputation depended on "the way we treat foreigners". She promised to launch a big publicity campaign promptly to attack

intolerance and promote racial harmony.

The ombudsman's job has been vacant since the resignation in August of Liselotte Funcke, who quit angrily, saying there was not enough money available to do the job properly and that the government ignored virtually everything she said. Frau Schmalz-Jacobsen has won a budget increase of 280,000 marks on the 120,000 marks available to her predecessor. But this is still a tiny amount and suggests that the government is not depending on the ombudsman to make much impact on xenophobia. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, is trying to bring immigration policy under the control of the European Community and stem the flow of foreigners into Germany.

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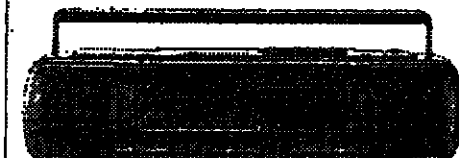
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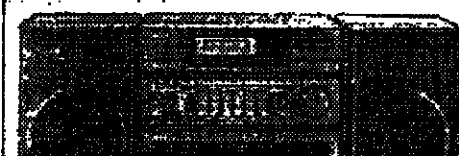
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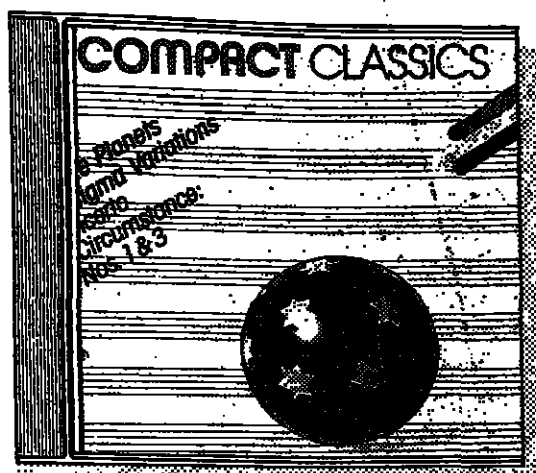
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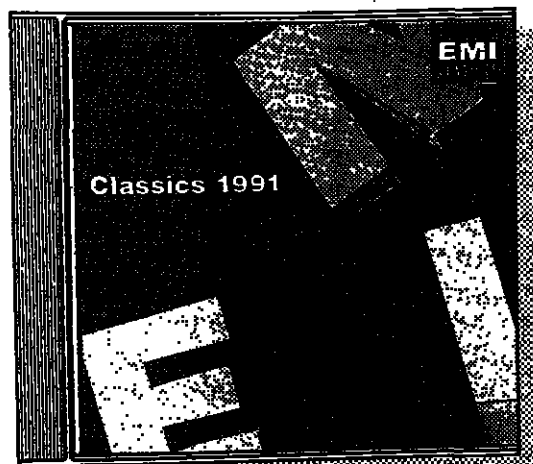
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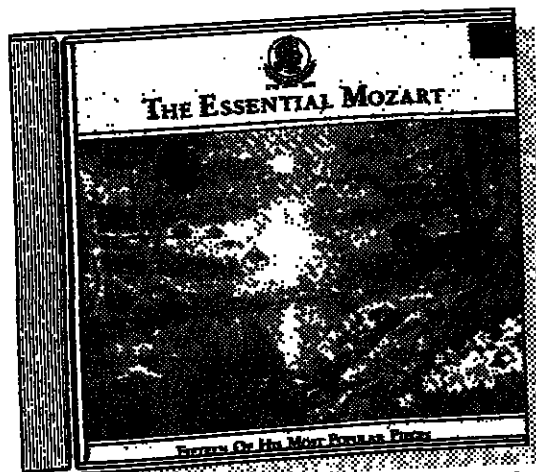
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Haiti MPs will meet Aristide

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON
IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

UNDER mounting international pressure and a tightening trade embargo, the Haitian parliament has agreed to meet Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the deposed president, to discuss a solution to the country's problems. The meeting will be in a third country, possibly Colombia or Costa Rica, perhaps as soon as next week.

It is unclear how much negotiating power the parliament will have. Some units of the armed forces remain opposed to the exiled president's return.

The agreement to meet Mr Aristide was announced on Wednesday evening at the end of a four-day mission to Haiti by negotiators from the Organisation of American States. Their leader, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, the former Colombian foreign minister, emphasised the urgency of solving Haiti's problems.

The delegation agreed with the provisional government to send two missions to Haiti soon, one to examine human rights and the other to assess the effects of the economic embargo.

1992 US presidential election

Right-winger plans to challenge Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, whose re-election next year once looked a mere formality, suffered another blow yesterday. It emerged that Patrick Buchanan, an arch-conservative and one of his severest critics, is planning to challenge him for the Republican nomination.

Mr Buchanan, former communications director in the Reagan White House and now an outspoken syndicated columnist, would have practically no hope of beating Mr Bush. But he would act as a lightning rod for a large number of disaffected conservatives who feel Mr Bush has sold out on key issues, and his candidacy would point up the underlying divisions in the Republican party.

Mr Buchanan's plans to run against Mr Bush in the New Hampshire primary on February 18 were disclosed in *The Washington Times*, a newspaper for which Mr Buchanan writes and which is almost as right-wing as he. It quoted Mr Buchanan's sister, Angela, a former United States treasurer, as saying: "It's a go."

He's so excited." Although he reserved the right to make a final decision during the Thanksgiving holiday later this month, he had "made up his mind" to run.

News of Mr Buchanan's intentions comes as Mr Bush's approval ratings are steadily falling and he is under fire for his perceived failure to address America's pressing domestic problems, in particular its stagnant economy, as he rushes around the world. A Buchanan candidacy would focus on those very concerns. He is a hardline "America first" isolationist who has little time for foreign aid and helping prop up the Soviet Union. In a column last week he argued that the sooner the Soviet Union was allowed to perish the better.

He strongly opposed American military action in Kuwait and could be expected to argue that with President Saddam Hussein still in power the Gulf war achieved very little. Mr Buchanan would also champion the many senior Republicans who are demanding an

economic growth package, including tax cuts.

A Buchanan candidacy could be a tactic to force Mr Bush to the right on social issues. He would articulate conservative displeasure with the president on a whole range of issues, including the abandonment of his "no new taxes" pledge, his recent compromises on civil rights and quotas, even his willingness to talk to homosexual activists. Mr Buchanan's opposition to abortion would be far more robust than Mr Bush's.

If Mr Buchanan campaigns, he would be a rallying point for disaffected Reaganites, but would also appeal to the sort of blue-collar conservatives who are rallying behind David Duke, the former Ku Klux Klansman running for governor of Louisiana. Like Mr Duke, Mr Buchanan dares to speak the unspeakable. Aid for jobless Congressional negotiators have reached agreement on a \$5.1 billion (£2.9 billion) measure to help more than one million unemployed. (Reuter)



Commercial union: Carla Hills, the United States Trade Representative, holding a press conference in Seoul, where she attended the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. She criticised South Korea for resisting the liberalisation of agricultural markets and reiterated America's demand that it accept rice imports. The 15 Pacific Rim countries attending the forum emphasised the importance of free trade in a statement yesterday. (Reuter)

Duke woos angry middle class with the sound of music

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

"WELCOME to Dukeslot," the Cajun singer sings, "the kind of Gentle America where Jews are gone and blacks have only three-fifths of a vote." His young student listeners, sporting "No Dukes" badges on their jeans, smile and prepare for another day deluging southeast Louisiana with "Edwards for Governor" leaflets.

The campaign to defeat the former Nazi and Ku Klux Klansman, David Duke, in tomorrow's governorship race appears to be going well. Backed by an unprecedented alliance of left-wing song-writing satirists and right-wing cheque-writing businessmen (plus almost any organisation that matters in the state), the campaign by Edwin Edwards has achieved leads of up to 20 points, according to opinion polls this week. "I feel the election is pretty much in the bag," Mr Edwards said yesterday.

On Wednesday night, however, Mr Duke himself came to Cajun country, the French-speaking region of swamps and oil which has been part of Mr Edwards' political base throughout his 20-year career. At Carencro racetrack Mr Duke had a Cajun band, too, with accordions and men strumming what look like bullet-proof vests around their necks.

More than 2,000 people came to hear him. His message: that Dukeslot was not the problem, that it was the solution to the licentious spendthrift Camelot world of the Kennedys and their friends whose influence was still destroying the American way of life. Mr Duke's campaign is not as witty as that of his rival, his rallies are ramshackle, the sound systems barely work. But the breadth of his appeal, revealed over the past few weeks, has terrified traditional politicians from the West Coast to the White House.

Although some of Mr Duke's supporters on Wednesday night were the angry young racists giving the "no niggers" shouts that are common in Mr Duke's own country further north, the majority was, in many ways, more alarming. Jeep Jackson, aged 41, the owner of a lawnmower

company, has already filled in an absentee ballot for Mr Duke. Tomorrow, he will be away on a business trip. He hates the "no nigger" chanters but says that Mr Duke has repudiated both them and his own racist past. Mr Jackson, a self-styled member of the "angry middle-class", has voted for low taxes, less government and for a Christian governor.

Kirk Fontenot is a Cajun yuppie, a computer science graduate with a wide-cut T-shirt and big ambitions. He calls himself a "moderate" and sees Mr Duke as the shot-in-the-arm that the sleeping Bayou economy needs. He thinks that the Edwards campaign, with its heavily financed messages about attacking Mr Duke's Nazism and Klan leadership, is a measure of how desperate the Louisiana establishment has become. "If David Duke were an axe murderer he wouldn't get the flak he gets now," he says.

When Mr Duke finally spoke at Wednesday night's rally, standing up in a charcoal business suit against a starless charcoal sky, he did not disappoint his moderate friends. He made unusually few references to race. His coded attacks on welfare abuse were well down his list of priorities. He brushed aside the polls which, in two recent contests, have underestimated support by more than 100 per cent. "This is more than a political rally," he said. "This is a celebration of a new day coming in Louisiana."

President Bush attacked Mr Duke again on Wednesday, saying that the former Klansman was "too ugly for him to remain silent". But tomorrow's result will certainly be harder to call than most of those that take place here on the Carencro track. A moderate Mr Duke is a reassuring image to an expensively dressed estate agent, Ann Brook, as she leaves the stadium with Don, her engineer husband. After cheering her hero at the rally, she is still not taking any chances outside. "Take that thing off," she says, pointing to the Duke badge on Don's shiny leather belt. "Someone might see it."

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK

Pop's Bad boy makes good

By CHARLES BRENNER

Titanic. Momentous. Epochal. From Tokyo to New York, passing by Los Angeles, such are the terms required by nervous promoters in any discussion of what they consider one of the decade's most significant events: a new record by Michael Jackson. It has been four years since the world's most successful pop star released *Bad*, his last album, and nine years since *Thriller*, the best-selling record in history, launched the boom in pop videos.

Now, heralded by a multi-media blitzkrieg, comes *Dangerous*, a cultural event which carries with it not just the fortunes of the reclusive singer but, to believe the experts, also the direction of the whole American entertainment business, not to mention the global strategy of the Sony corporation. The Japanese firm threw in its lot with Jackson this year when it signed an unprecedented contract which could pay him up to a \$1 billion over the next decade for albums, films and videos.

Madonna is said to be on the verge of a similar, but smaller, deal with Time Warner. Sony hopes that Jackson, aged 33, will prove the worth of their ideas on cross-pollination, a scheme under which they can market American performers across genres and use them to promote their electronic hardware. The doctrine, which was behind Sony's purchase of Columbia Pictures and CBS records, has not really worked so far.

If *Dangerous* is a success, Jackson will go on to star in *Midnight* (sic), a Columbia vehicle for him, and then spin off into other segments of electronic publishing. With the huge stake riding on Jackson, it is no wonder that *Dangerous* is being brought to the world with the

mother of all publicity offensives.

First came a surrealistic advertising film directed by David Lynch, then the release of *Black or White*, a single from the album. Last night, the *Dangerous* video was being unveiled, still two weeks ahead of the record. "It's phantasmagoric, an extravaganza, a real lollaplozza," said John Landis, the director, who also made the milestone video for *Thriller*.

According to leaks, the 11-minute production combines Schwarzenegger-style action effects with a politically correct plot about racial harmony, including appearances by American Indians and scores of animals. With the product

If *Bad* means Good
Dangerous
must mean Safe



imminent, there is much discussion of whether Jackson, who has periodically reinvented his persona and surgically remodelled his looks, can pull it off. "Can he again dominate the planet despite a long absence, his eccentric image and pop's radically altered landscape?" *USA Today* wondered yesterday.

His carefully-tended reputation has taken a knock in the past week with a critical record by Jeannine Jackson, his older brother. In *Word to the Bad!!!* Jeannine attacks him for the surgery which, among other things, has lightened his skin colour.

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Sihanouk embraces old enemies amid jasmine and tears

From JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

PRINCE Norodom Sihanouk embraced his old enemies in an emotional return to Cambodia yesterday after 13 years' exile. The prince, who looked tired but elated, said he was very happy. He walked on jasmine petals strewn by girls, and kissed and hugged old friends separated by years of war in Cambodia.

At times, the prince wept with emotion. Accompanied by his wife, Princess Monique, son Prince Ranariddh and daughter Princess Bopha Devi, he watched traditional Cambodian ballet, once banned by the Khmer Rouge.

Last night, thousands of people jammed the square in front of the royal palace here in a spontaneous outpouring of relief and happiness. In the mid-1970s, the Khmer Rouge had asked Cambodians to rally to welcome the returning prince — and then murdered those who were unwise enough to show up.

Prince Sihanouk, who first entered public life 50 years ago, drove into a city lined with people crying "santaphap" (peace) and "long life to Father Sihanouk", and groups of Chinese lion

and dragon dancers. Chen Cham, aged 53, a peasant woman, said: "This means peace in Cambodia and we feel full of joy. I have missed Father Sihanouk for many years of suffering."

Many in the crowd, who included schoolchildren for whom Sihanouk is little more than a name, had been mobilised by the Phnom Penh regime, and carried placards saying "Long live the glorious state of Cambodia" and "Long life to the People's party", the ruling party here. Some said "Bravo for democratic rights in Cambodia", a reflection, apparently, of the regime's new line.

There was no doubt about the warmth of the welcome. The prince had arrived from Peking with Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government. The prince has led a coalition of three factions opposed to that regime. Last month, all four factions signed a peace accord: United Nations observers from France and Australia arrived this week to supervise a ceasefire that came into effect on May 1.

Some of those blue-haired



Exiles' entrance: Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his wife, Princess Monique, acknowledge well-wishers in Phnom Penh

foreign troops formed part of the guard of honour for the prince. "Thank you for coming to help make our nation peaceful," the prince told Colonel Russell Stuart, commander of 38 Australian troops. The royal couple also

greeted the new British chief of mission, David Burns, and his wife Inge.

When he stepped down from the aircraft, the prince greeted the diminutive president of Cambodia, Heng Samrin, and kissed him on

both cheeks. The gesture seemed to symbolise the end of years of war. Then Mr Hun Sen drove into town with the prince in an open car. Security was at a minimum. People could reach out and touch them both.

ing the 1975-8 rule of the Khmer Rouge. "That was a terrible time," he said. "Now we hope it will be a bitter memory."

The prince made an offering to Buddhist monks, who prayed for peace in Cambodia. Under the Khmer Rouge, monks had had to labour in the fields. Also on hand were members of Cambodia's Cham Muslim minority, who were once persecuted too.

Prince Sihanouk saw huge portraits of himself as a young man at some points in the capital, which in 1975 was emptied by the Khmer Rouge. He was held from 1975 until early 1979 as a "palace prisoner" of Pol Pot, the leader of the Khmer Rouge. One landmark that he will no longer see is the cathedral, dismantled brick by brick by the Khmer Rouge.

To the chagrin of many Cambodians, the Khmer Rouge will also be returning to Phnom Penh to take part in a meeting of the Supreme National Council, of which the prince is chairman. The council is to embody Cambodia's sovereignty in the period up to the United Nations-supervised elections scheduled for 1993.



'Error' by army in East Timor

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDONESIA'S army chief in East Timor admitted yesterday that his men were at fault in opening fire on a crowd of mourners in an incident that has sparked international outrage.

Brigadier-General Rudolf Warouw, East Timor's military commander, said: "It was a misunderstanding by the soldiers and they shot because of the tension." The army says 19 people were killed and 91 injured on Tuesday when troops opened fire at a cemetery in Dili. But witnesses say more than 50 died and Bishop Ximenes Carlos Belo of East Timor quoted reports of up to 180 deaths.

General Warouw confirmed that a New Zealand student was among the dead, who were all buried in mass graves on the outskirts of Dili.

Baker dishes rice bowl diplomacy

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, will forgo the traditional lavish banquet during his three-day visit to Peking beginning today. The most senior United States official to visit China since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, he will have scant time for courtesies. For the Secretary of State, and for President Bush, this trip is a big political gamble and he is interested only in achieving demonstrable results.

Failure by Mr Baker to bring substantial concessions from the hardline Chinese leadership would give a boost to those in Congress battling to isolate China and revoke its preferential trading status. It would leave Mr Bush's controversial policy of conciliation and restraint towards Peking an irresistible target for Democrats as he enters election year. Sino-American relations, already sour, would deteriorate still further.

Mr Baker will press for an end to China's widespread human rights abuses, its unfair trading practices and, most important, its sales of destabilising nuclear or missile technology to countries such as Iran, Syria and Pakistan. He will urgently seek China's help in halting North Korea's drive for nuclear weapons, now a serious concern in Washington.

The US House and Senate have passed legislation which makes renewal of China's valuable most favoured na-

tion trading status next July strictly dependent on it meeting American concerns. The Senate vote was 55 to 44, too close to overcome Mr Bush's expected veto, but observers believe Chinese intransigence this weekend could well inspire the necessary two-thirds majority.

The human rights group, Asia Watch, which is based in the United States, meanwhile said that China was still exporting prison-made goods, possibly using political detainees as labour, and Peking's assurances to the contrary were worthless.

A dissident poster appeared on the campus of Peking University last night signed by the "Liberal Democratic party of China", accusing the Communist party of human rights violations. The small, printed poster called on the Communist party to release all political prisoners and referred to the fall of Soviet communism.

A Chinese man claiming to be a spokesman for the underground "Liberal Democratic party" told foreign journalists that his organisation had an estimated 2,000 members nationwide grouped in small cells. There was no way to verify this figure. Journalists were also contacted by a second Chinese man, who claimed to be a member of the "Chinese United Democratic Association". He would not say how many people were involved in his organisation.

Husain hones his high-wire skills

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

RESTORED to the Western camp but still beloved by his people, King Husain celebrated his 56th birthday yesterday after another display of the Houdini-like powers of survival that have kept him the longest-serving leader in the Middle East.

There was gloom last November, when Jordan was isolated and scorned because of its pro-Iraqi stand over the Gulf conflict. Last night, Amman was ablaze with coloured lights and flags as parties were staged to mark the occasion.

As official tributes poured into the hillside palace, Western diplomats seemed too relieved that the king, in his 39th year on the throne, was, as one put it, "back on side", to notice the irony of greetings being showered on a man vilified only 12 months ago as the lackey of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The posters of the two exchanging an automatic rifle have been torn from the walls of Iraq's fortress-style embassy, as have those from shops and offices depicting the king, the Iraqi president and Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as the three heroes of the Arab masses. Instead, the text of the new-style Jordanian leadership was provided by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, when he set the seal on the rehabilitation during a visit in September. "No one has exhibited

greater leadership and greater courage than you have in your efforts," he told the Sandhurst-educated monarch, who claims direct descent from the prophet Muhammad.

Binally hurt by what he felt was the West's misunderstanding of Jordan's position in the Gulf war, the king gave full-hearted support to the new peace process, defying Syrian threats and offering co-operation with the Palestinians. Jordan has experienced a thaw in relations with the oil-rich Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, which have begun a gradual restoration of cash grants and other favours.

"The king is a genius. He has kept the support of his people who were always pro-Saddam and, at the same time, restored himself in Washington's favour by proving a paragon of peace," one European envoy said. "It has been a virtuoso performance on the high-wire."

At home, the celebrations had more than their usual poignancy. They came less than a month after Jordanians were faced with the unthinkable when their monarch warned them he might consider relinquishing the throne he took over when he was aged 17. The idea, now abandoned, was a trump card played partly to defuse opposition to Jordan's peace-making role from the increasingly powerful Muslim fundamentalist lobby.

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The way we liked to think we were

Richard Cork reviews an exhibition that celebrates three centuries of portrait painting, a national obsession that flowered into great art

With eyes closed, neck-bone jutting and her slender right arm fully outstretched, Madame Suggia pulls her bow across the cello's strings in high style. During the 80 sittings she gave to Augustus John, Bach sounded from her instrument. Rachmaninov would have been more appropriate, for the portrait shows just how flamboyant John could be.

Abandoning his initial plan to paint the renowned Portuguese cellist in a blue-sequined gown, he swathed her instead in cascading wine-red draperies against voluminous curtains. The outcome is unashamed theatricality, bordering on Hollywood kitsch. But it provides the National Portrait Gallery's survey of The Portrait in British Art with a bravura opening flourish.

And Suggia's valiant profile seems appropriate for a show celebrating the doughty role played by the National Art Collections Fund, which helped to acquire all these paintings for museums throughout the country.

The insatiable British desire to commission and hang painted effigies waned after photography really took hold in the present century. Before then, though, the leading portraitists of the day often found themselves overwhelmed by clamorous demand. One visiting Swiss miniaturist was astounded to discover "how fond the English are of having their pictures drawn", and the incessant pressure they placed on Van Dyck may well have contributed to his early death.

The wonder is that he remained capable of outstanding work during his final, hectic London period, when assistants carried out much of the work in his highly organised workshop. Although Van Dyck was prevented by the continual queue of sitters from developing his love of religious and mythological work, he still managed to produce full-lengths as memorable as the portrait of Lord George Stuart in Arcadian costume. Probably arrayed for a court masque, the young cavalier nevertheless appears deeply melancholy as he subsides against a rocky ledge inscribed with the words "Love is stronger than I am".

A similar sentiment could be applied to Sir Thomas Aston, the Sheriff of Chester, who sways far more unsteadily than Stuart in John Souch's provincial yet

compelling masterpiece. Probably commissioned in 1635, after Aston's wife died in childbirth, the painting has at its centre a skull on a black-draped cradle. Sir Thomas clutches it, while leaning with his other hand on a navigational instrument shaped like a cross. But that does not stop him reeling away from the deathbed where his wife lies, blanched and still.

As if to counter the painting's bleakness, Souch depicts Lady Aston again at the foot of the bed, seated and dressed in mourning. Her presence does little to alleviate the sense of desolation, though. This large, disjointed picture is as perturbing, in its way, as Ben Marshall's portrait of the fox-hunter Thomas Hilton nearly two centuries later. Nothing, at first

'Monna Vanna looks glacial and remote among the jewels, fans and flowers that adorn her oddly bleached flesh'

glance, seems unusual about the red-coated sportsman standing with whip in hand behind his favourite hound "Glory". However, the fox's bitten-off head hanging in the hound's mouth wrenches our attention away from everything else. Although Marshall intended to invest his portrait with a dignity in keeping with Hilton's reputation, this horribly exposed trophy makes the 72-year-old hunter look callous as he presides with a satisfied smile.

Because the exhibition roams widely over the history of British portraiture, John Hayes's selection conceals some stimulating juxtapositions. On one wall, two Pre-Raphaelite visions of woman could hardly be more contrasted. Rossetti's *Monna Vanna* is surely his most sumptuous and unbridled image. Despite the Venetian splendour of her billowing white and gold dress, the woman who sat for this richly perfumed painting was a would-be actress called Alexa Wilding. Rossetti met her in the Strand one evening and, captivated

by the full lips and auburn hair, paid her a retaining fee for exclusive services as a model. She looks glacial and remote among the cornucopia of jewels, fans and flowers that adorn her oddly bleached flesh.

Next to this exotic, Sphinx-like presence, however, hangs Millais' portrait of his wife Effie. By 1873, when she sat for him in a plum-coloured dress, Mrs Millais had borne her husband eight children. Composed and somewhat stout in middle age, she gazes in his direction without curiosity. Only the surprisingly free and sensual handling of pigment hints at the passion which had prompted Millais, nearly 20 years before, to fall in love with her when Effie was still embroiled in a miserable marriage with Ruskin.

These two opposed images of Victorian femininity, the conjugal and the infatuated, make bizarre neighbours. But Hayes produces even greater surprises when he disregards chronology altogether. In one corner hangs Kneller's portrait of the prominent publisher Jacob Tonson, looking upwards with ruddy, bullish energy. His plump hand clasps a lavishly bound copy of *Paradise Lost*, which made his fortune after he acquired the rights. He looks greedily possessive about the book, and his turban cap covers what Dryden sneeringly described as Tonson's "Judas-coloured hair".

If the Tonson painting shows early 18th-century portraiture at its pugnacious best, Sickert's image of Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, towering nearby, reveals how early 20th-century artists responded to the growing challenge of the camera. Instead of asking the actress to sit for him, as Tonson had done for Kneller, Sickert looked through her albums and based his painting on a dress-rehearsal photograph. Kneller had striven for a robust likeness, whereas Sickert felt at liberty to depart as wildly as he liked from his starting-point.

Realising that it was pointless to emulate the photograph, he produced a flat, roughly handled and semi-abstract alternative. The actress's dress dominates most of the picture-surface, and its folds almost dissolve in the fierce stage-lighting. She becomes a wrath encircled by darkness beyond, as



Sumptuous: Dante Gabriel Rossetti's *Monna Vanna*, 1866, on show at the National Portrait Gallery

insubstantial and dream-like as Tonson is solid and down-to-earth.

Although Sickert's portrait is the latest picture in the exhibition, it possesses unexpected links with the earliest painting on view. For Gheeraert's full-length of an unknown Jacobean lady is also flat, unreal and preoccupied with prominently displayed clothing.

Between these two images, executed in 1618 and 1932 respectively, artists strove to invest their sitters with a far greater sense of individual character. Reynolds gave Laurence Sterne, newly celebrated after the publication of *Tristram Shandy*, an arresting

blend of authority and mischief as the black-gowned novelist leans masterfully on a manuscript.

Whether assured or diffident, the sitter's identity is securely defined. Gwen John assumes a commanding and defiant pose in her 1900 self-portrait, hand on hip and head utterly erect above an assertive black bow.

As the new century developed, however, Gwen John became less and less concerned with portraiture. Her later sitters are often anonymous, and seem on the point of melting in the soft light which she found so all-absorbing. A similar emptying-out can be found

in the present exhibition, with Vanessa Bell's portrait of Virginia Woolf. Although she was painting her sister, Bell stopped short of specifying Vanessa's features with any clarity. They remain tantalisingly indistinct. Influenced by Matisse, Bell reduces her sister's face to little more than its strong, defining contours. But the subtle brushwork within them conveys the mysterious intensity of Virginia's imaginative life, even as she shrinks away from the portraitist's gaze.

● The Portrait in British Art continues at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0033) until February 9

BRIEFING

The rain in...

FRESH from winning the Evening Standard "best musical" award for his Old Vic production of *Carmen Jones*, the actor-director Simon Callow has launched an even bigger musical project. He is to direct a £3 million Patsy Stone production of *My Fair Lady*, starring Edward Fox, which will begin a seven-month tour in Manchester next February. Fox will play the "Rea Harrison" role of Professor Higgins, but casting Eliza Doolittle is proving less easy. "It is difficult finding the right actress of the right age who can sing well," is how Callow, perhaps a touch undiplomatically, puts it.

Yo, Bunbury

DAME Edith Evans move over. The latest actress to cry "A handbag?" is the African-American Ann Weldon, featured in a new all-black film of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, recently unveiled during a Harvard symposium on black cinema. The action is shifted to contemporary England; a few textual details are apparently updated, but otherwise Oscar Wilde's epigrams are allowed to sparkle as normal. The big-brother film is the creation of Karl Baker, a tyro director.

Last chance...

IN HARNESSING the story-telling tradition of Irish folk to a modern political outlook, the singer Christy Moore has broken down barriers between old and young.



Christy Moore: power purists and innovators alike. No longer quite the firebrand of his younger days, he is a performer of broad charm, but can still display immense power when roused to anger. He concludes his six-night residency at Hammer-smith Odeon, London W6 (081-748 4081) with shows tonight, tomorrow and Sunday.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, Dance and Opera directed by Ingmar Bergman
page 22

FROM LITTLE ACORNS...

In 1295, Good King Vaclav II of Bohemia founded the town of Pilsen. He was an affable old ruler and granted numerous privileges to the town's inhabitants. One of these being the right to brew beer. According to ancient folklore, the readiness of the beer was tested in a rather bizarre way. Inspectors would pour the beer onto oak benches, then sit on it in leather breeches. Apparently, if the beer stuck to the leather it meant the brew was of the required density. Of course, these were humble beginnings indeed in the art of beer-making. But it was the start of a wonderful brewing history for the town of Pilsen. For in 1842 the world's first lager was invented in Pilsen. It was called Pilsner Urquell. Very quickly its popularity grew, and grew. Soon, many other brewers throughout Europe, and indeed the world, produced their own beers in the "Pilsner-style". Today, of course, lager brewing has grown into a mighty business. However, for some people only the original from Pilsen is good enough. Clearly they are well aware of our roots.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

PROVINCIAL IMPRESSIONS: Paris-based Impressionists remain unaffordable, but those from Rouen are less known and less highly valued. Such as Alfred Duret, Narcisse Guybert and Léon Suzanne may be unlikely to supplant Monet, Renoir and Degas, but they deserve a second look. L'École de Rouen. Frost and Reed, 16 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-629 2457). Mon to Fri, 9am-5.30pm, until Dec 24.

EARLY DAYS: Anglo-Saxon Britain is seldom regarded as an important centre of art and culture. But a few famous artefacts suggest another view, and the new show at the British Museum convincingly fills in the details of a golden age. The Making of England. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon to Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until March 8.

MODEL PRB: One of the original, tight, Pre-Raphaelite broomhood was Woolner, later a highly successful sculptor when he returned from the Australian gold fields. Pre-Raphaelite Sculpture. Matthiessen Gallery, 7-8 Mason's Yard, SW1 (071-930 2437). Mon to Fri, 10.30am-5.30pm, until Dec 12.

CLOUDED VISION: Gerhard Richter has always painted in a variety of styles simultaneously. This retrospective shows him ranging from brightly coloured abstractions of paint dragged across the surface of the canvas to his most characteristic mode, which imitates in paint the effect of fuzzy photographs. Gerhard Richter. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon to Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, until Jan 12.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

ROCK

Soft, sweet sounds get the hard sell

Enya's music may seem ethereal, but her chart-topping success is solid enough. David Toop met the mainstream's favourite muse



Enya: "It's important to introduce people to the music; business is business."

Two years ago, an unknown singer from U.K. Donegal named Enya was playing a vital role in the run-up to Christmas. Although she was not actually decked out in a Santa Claus outfit, her music drifted through every department store Christmas grotto in the land. The album from which this mysterious sound emanated was *Watermark*, one of the surprise hits of 1988 and 1989. "Orinoco Flow", drawn from *Watermark*, was a No 1 single at the end of 1988 and the album sales are now reaching five million.

Repeating such unexpected success can be notoriously difficult, but in its first week of release the new album, *Shepherd Moons*, has gone straight to No 1, rising above established heavyweights such as the Pet Shop Boys, Queen, Simply Red and INXS.

Clearly there is a mystery element in Enya's music which defies the usual certainties of the music industry. The nature of this ingredient is elusive. As a schoolgirl, Enya studied classical music and sang traditional Irish ballads, but her introduction to professional music came with her enrolment in the family group. This was Clannad, familiar for its air-brushed Arcadianism. Enya added electronic keyboards to the sound her elder brothers and sisters were creating, pushing it a little further in the direction of Irish mood music. After two years she left to develop this new genre on her own.

With an ambiguous air of the monastery, seascapes and Irish legends, Enya's pure vocals and lush keyboards float dangerously close to the sleeping gas of New Age music. How, then, has she conquered the mainstream when New Age noodling remains a marginal cult?

Despite her emotional, unanalytical approach to her own recordings, Enya is intrigued by the question. "A lot of people say this music is different because it takes different feelings out of each person," she claims. "I do not know how that comes about. It becomes really personal to them. People listen to music and incorporate their own feelings into a piece of music that I've written."

The demands of her music

are similar to certain styles of landscape painting. Lyrics, titles and structures found in pieces like "Orinoco Flow" or "Marble Halls" are specific enough to suggest images, perhaps of evocative scenes or emotional states, yet vague enough to allow listeners to invent the character of those images. The surface is simple, yet multiple layers of vocals and a soft carpet of electronic chords suggest depth. Presented with a picture that

could be anything or nothing, the imagination can wander.

This theory is received with polite bemusement by Enya. Regardless of the airy qualities of the music she is a pragmatist. To make music which allows consumers to forget that they are consuming is a powerful asset. She has no objections to her songs being utilised by television advertisers and cinema directors, for example. Films such as Steve Martin's *L4 Story* and Peter

Weir's *Green Card* use sections from *Watermark* in their soundtracks, while Dufux and American Express are just two of the companies to spot the enhancement that an Enya track can lend to a sales pitch.

"Even from the first music I had written - six pieces of instrumental music - there was so much visual happening with those pieces," she says. "There's something inherent in the melodies that lends itself to visuals." Besides this, the symbiosis of music and advertising has become a significant tactical element of music marketing. "It's important to introduce as many people as possible to the music," she admits, "because business is business."

Considering the connotations of remote landscape, tranquillity, myths and dreams, it is odd to find that Enya confines most of her writing and playing to the recording studio that she and her collaborators, Nicky and Roma Ryan, have built in Dublin. Studios are customarily regarded as functional laboratories where music is finished off rather than conceived, and there is a typically modern contradiction in the idea of ruralism and retreat being fashioned from a sterile, technological environment.

This disciplined, formal approach is another key, perhaps, to the mystery ingredient. Out of isolation she has developed a style that sits apart from the distractions and clamour of other music. She relates the need to work in peace and quiet to her childhood in Gweedore. "Coming from a big family," she says, "the occasion to be on your own was rare." Living in the centre of a maelstrom of noise and crowds, Enya fans may be discovering a similar pleasure by listening to her quiet music.

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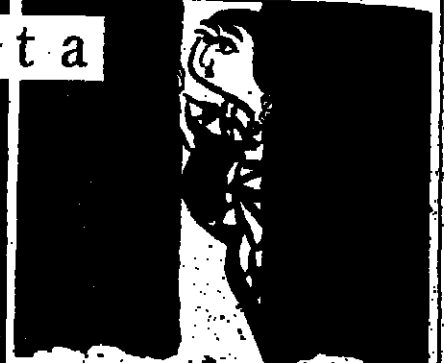
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Elisabeth Maxwell reflects on a man who, for her, was both serious and surprisingly innocent

'He was childish, like a choirboy'

STEPHEN MARKESON

THE KATE MUIR INTERVIEW

Public lives entail public deaths, but none has been so rumoured in as that of Robert Maxwell. For his wife, Elisabeth, the funeral on the Mount of Olives brought sudden calm to the grotesque circus which had surrounded her for five days. As a Christian married to a Jew, she felt it made sense that their 46-year relationship should end in a cemetery beneath a memorial commemorating those who died in the Holocaust, next to the Christian shrine at the Garden of Gethsemane.

"I brought a certain decorum and dignity to this kind of morbid curiosity surrounding my husband. I felt at peace leaving him in this very beautiful place: the place all the members of his family might have wanted to be buried if they had not been murdered by the Nazis. And then there was this wonderful view — of the Old Temple, and the life of the city of Jerusalem going on as usual, so although it was very sacred and beautiful, you were somehow not away from life," she says.

Betty Maxwell is facing her life with enormous courage, awaiting the results of the inquiry into her husband's death with equanimity. She thinks she may never know what really happened. In the meantime, she maintains a great dignity, an attribute her husband was never particularly bothered about himself. Now, back in the marble-pillared penthouse suite of Maxwell House in London, she talks about an entirely different man from the self-publicising tycoon who romped through the pages of his own newspapers. She says, repeatedly, that she was a serious man.

The effect of his childhood in poverty and subsequent orphanage by the Holocaust are often forgotten by people outside, but at home he was always a lurking shadow. "I created a family for him when he had lost everyone and gave him back a sense of security. He had lost his faith, whatever faith a boy of 13 can have, when his parents were killed, and he needed me to be the axle in his life. He knew I would always be there."

One death has exploded in her mind a set of connections to all the others. After all, their relationship began in the last days of the war, following the liberation of Paris, when he was a young adopted-English officer, and she a translator and hostess-organiser in one of the army clubs. A nice middle-class French girl, daughter of a silk merchant in Lyons, she was captivated by Maxwell. Although a little hard to imagine now, then, she says smiling, he was extremely handsome — "a young Gary Cooper".

With a growing French inflection, she says, "I was in that club for three months, it was the war, and all those men had no manners. They would maul you and it was difficult for a woman to keep herself to herself. Bob never behaved like that and that alone for me was enough. Then I talked to him and straight away I had a conversation unlike that I had ever had with anyone else."

The man, even at 68, had an energy which kept her endlessly attracted. In the last few days, she has been thinking back over their lives together — and often apart for long periods — and although she thinks there were many things she could have done better, she has no sensation of time being wasted. Mr Maxwell was so demanding of his wife and children, that she feels they all functioned in constant top gear. "Through his desire to stretch people to their limits, and my love for him, I felt I achieved a lot more than I would have done had I married someone else."

They were an unlikely couple. She is trim, very much the French matriarch, in a narrow black skirt, high court shoes and ankles that quite belie her 70 years. The over-olivet surroundings, heavy silk hangings and velvet sofas jar with her discreet elegance. The room is more him than her. It is easy to imagine Mr Maxwell, sitting like a pasha on the ottoman at the top of his business empire. Ever for-



ward-looking, the side tables were still covered in Asian business magazines.

Yet the marriage of such opposites worked, although it was one of inconvenience rather than convenience. Mrs Maxwell brought up nine children largely on her own; their father was a figure, both loved and feared, who came home to Headington Hall in Oxford at weekends, and made emotional and intellectual demands. He sat his children next to MPs and scientists over Sunday lunch and would bang the table and yell if they failed to keep up in the conversation. "Perhaps he was too hard on them, but he was teaching them to take life

employees. His wife thinks it was a salutary lesson, the sort of treatment that makes it easier for her sons to take over the business now.

She also disapproved of the way her husband smacked the children. "They had to be very bad and it was never, ever in anger. He would say: 'Do you think what you have done is wrong? Do you think you ought to be punished?' and then do it. To me, it was absolutely abhorrent." She resented it, only once being reduced to the same tactics herself, and that was when one of her sons was 15.

Her dedication, however, to motherhood and wifeliness was close to saintly. It cannot

four-year-old daughter Karine, who died of leukaemia.

Once the children had left home, she began to have some much-needed time for herself. With mothering, and entertaining business guests, "I felt I'd been running a hotel all my life". Even as director of editorial relations when they owned Pergamon, she winced and dined authors of science books and journals, and as the wife of an MP in the Sixties, she did the same for half the Wilson cabinet. She felt she was living life secondhand — "married to such a man you need to carve out a life of your own" — and decided to apply to St Hugh's College at Oxford to read French literature, and to resolve the conflict between the two languages and cultures which continued in her head.

Mrs Maxwell studied Pascal, Rabelais and Montaigne, "all the horrible authors for English people", and went on to do a five-year PhD on the art of letter writing in France between 1789 and 1830, which included a section of computer tests of the frequency of certain words. "I felt enriched. It sharpened my mind."

Even learning to use a computer was important to her. "Bob had this phrase, 'Don't ask, it's too technical', but once I felt no fear of the world of computers he had to stop. It was a bit of a one-up."

There is no question that Mrs Maxwell was as smart, if not smarter than her husband. Yet in the past, certainly, she has sounded as though she worshipped him. She used to quote these lines from Henri de Montherlant, when explaining what attracted her to Mr Maxwell: "Tu m'as rendu fades tous les hommes, et médiocres tous les destins" — you have made all other men seem insipid, all other destinies mediocre.

Insipidity was certainly not a fault of Mr Maxwell's. But did she ever feel a little worn out by the constant flamboyance? "Oh yes, he boasted about lots of silly things, but he never boasted about the important things he did in life to help people. He was generous with his money and his time. He would hardly ever refuse anyone in need."

She denies he was at all interested in material goods — the yacht, helicopter and private jet, a model of which graces the coffee table, were means to an end. He never went shopping.

She found in him a surprising innocence for one so tough in business. "He was childish, like a choirboy. He never believed anyone would do him any harm. It wasn't until they had the knife right in his back, practically through to his heart, that he would consider them nasty."

Mr Maxwell's desire to be the biggest and best, and to portray himself as such in his newspapers, she considered unnecessary. "He was big, big

After the commotion: Elisabeth Maxwell found decorum and dignity at Sunday's funeral, away from the morbid curiosity

in every sense of the word. He was big-hearted. I think people envied him for that."

Resentment also came, she believes, because his style was most un-English. He completely lacked reserve, and occasionally he would ask his

nice brought-up, Anglicised children, why they were so "constipated". He was not, observes Mrs Maxwell grinning, inhibited by good manners, since he lacked them.

But after a few years, she considered the boasting and shouting to be small fry, compared to her husband's good qualities. His surface defects were just easier to spot.

Whatever this man was, he has left a larger-than-life hole behind him, a space she knows

is almost impossible to fill. Although Mr Maxwell may have been difficult to handle, she considers that because of him she has lived, rather than merely existed.

She has decided that the only way to continue is by throwing herself into activity. The Maxwells organised *Remembering for the Future*, an international conference on the Holocaust in Oxford in 1988, and she has decided to continue with their plans to

run another in Berlin in 1994, to take advantage of the opening up of Eastern Europe. "It's what my husband would have wanted." She is worried about the recent re-emergence of anti-Semitism, and works with the Council of Christians and Jews to try to promote understanding. "I am not prepared to stay silent and be a bystander about this. In a way, that is a mission."

It needs to be a large one to diminish her present pain.

When he left the house, everything would fall flat. Now it is like that all the time. It's quiet. The emptiness is unbelievable



Marriage of opposites: Robert and Elisabeth Maxwell in October 1971

seriously, that it wasn't a playground. She attributes his ire to the fact that he expected perfection from everyone, and was often — as a chess player — one move ahead, causing him to berate those lagging behind.

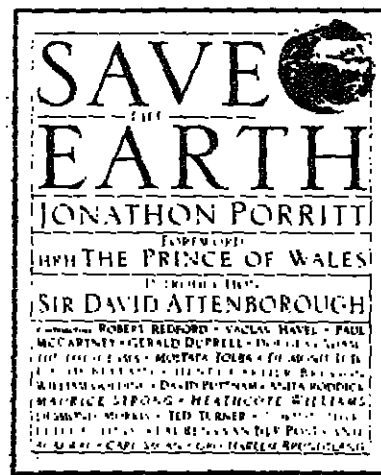
His galvanising effect did not diminish over the years. "He would come into the house and all of a sudden the whole pitch went higher. Then he would go, and everything would fall flat. Now it is like that all the time. It's quiet. The emptiness is unbelievable."

Even Mrs Maxwell felt her husband could be something of a bully. She was a little stunned, for instance, when he sacked his own son Ian for being late picking him up from the airport. "It was on the day he had been jilted by his girlfriend, and he must have thought the whole world was collapsing." Mr Maxwell, however, believed duty came first and treated his son no differently from any of his

have been easy bringing up nine children, at first without much help. "Every time Bob looked at me I had another child," she once said. Reproduction has its rewards, though. She thinks it may need more than one person to fill her husband's shoes. "Perhaps six people," she muses, five of whom are her children, Ian and Kevin in Britain, and Christine, Isabel and Ghislaine (who has just gone to the Maxwell-owned publishers Macmillan in America). Her son, Philip, a physicist, and daughter Anne remain outside the tendrils of the empire.

The family learned to live with tragedy long before the death of Mr Maxwell. Perhaps that is why Mrs Maxwell manages to find such strength now, since she has already had to come to terms with the death of her first son Michael, in a coma for seven years after a road accident, and of her

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Yeltsin wins his spurs

Russia's president has shown that he is a constitutionalist, says Mary Dejevsky

Knives are out again for Boris Yeltsin. No sooner does he win an apparently unassailable position than he manages to make some clumsy and thoroughly avoidable mistake — or so it seems. He squandered much of his domestic triumph during the August coup by mentioning the delicate matter of inter-republic borders and reviving the corpse of great-Russian imperialism. Two weeks ago he made sure that he was voted extra powers, which were presented widely — and wrongly, because he is still subject to parliament — as dictatorial.

Then, last weekend, he tried to send troops into the northern Caucasus to preserve the "unity and integrity" of Russia, only to find that the troops were not his to send, so he could only watch as his parliament rescinded the decree.

As so often before, his enemies, who include the Moscow and St Petersburg intelligentsia and most of Mr Gorbachev's allies abroad, were exultant. "A great setback",



Boris Yeltsin: accepting parliament's control

"a blow to the Russian leader's authority", read the headlines, and everyone sank back with relief into Mr Gorbachev's more reassuring and predictable world.

Mr Gorbachev himself could even be imagined, smiling a quiet smile in the Kremlin. Was not Boris Yeltsin experiencing precisely the difficulties that he himself had faced for the past five years as he tried to hold a reluctant empire together? And wasn't Mr Yeltsin falling even more miserably?

Mr Yeltsin's problems are indeed very similar to those confronted by Mr Gorbachev. Every tiny fragment of the former Soviet empire mistrusts Moscow, whether as the capital of the Soviet Union or of Russia. Each fragment believes that it will be better off by itself.

But it is not true, yet, that Mr Yeltsin is failing, and in one important respect his latest retreat, over the north Caucasus region of Chechnya-Ingushetia, is a victory for his presidency. For the first time since Mr Gorbachev proclaimed the values of a law-governed state, the constitutional process has proved effective in a part of the former union.

When the Russian parliament rejected Mr Yeltsin's decree, the republic's constitution and laws had been followed to the letter. Chechnya-Ingushetia violated the Russian constitution; the president decreed a state of emergency and parliament was summoned to endorse his decision.

The Russian president was not acting the demagogue or exceeding his powers. The rebuff to Mr Yeltsin concerned not the legality of his decree, but the likely effect of implementing it. The fear was that it could cause untold bloodshed and destabilise the whole of Russia's southern flank.

True, not all members of the Russian parliament acted from

such humane considerations. A minority tacitly supported the rebel Chechen leader for the sole reason that he had challenged Mr Yeltsin. But the overwhelming feeling was that the use of force would not serve the end purpose, which was to keep the Russian Federation together.

In voting against the decree, the Russian legislature was for the first time fulfilling its constitutional function: checking and controlling the executive power of the president. Despite his reputation for stubbornness and bullying, the president, for his part, has accepted the verdict.

Whatever happens next — and there is plenty of room for mistakes and accidents — Mr Yeltsin's stature has been damaged hardly at all. He showed strong leadership in proposing to bring a rebel region to heel by legal means, but he showed himself a constitutional leader in accepting parliamentary control.

The Russian parliament demonstrated the limits of the president's power. But it also strengthened his hand. In future, Mr Yeltsin can rebut any attempt by hard-liners to force a move against Chechens or any other rebels.

Time may show that, in rejecting the use of force to keep a single north Caucasus region inside the Russian fold, parliament precipitated the loss to Russia of most of its outlying regions. Equally, a looser grip may prove the only way of holding Russia together. Either way, however, Mr Yeltsin can claim that he had a mandate.

In this, the positions of Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gorbachev are quite different. For the past two years, and perhaps longer, Mr Gorbachev has been resisting pressure from hardliners to keep the Soviet Union together by force. The stand-off reached its climax with the August coup.

Had Mr Gorbachev had parliamentary backing for his course, his position would have been far stronger. Yet he appeared to believe, with some justification, that the Union parliament would not support him. Of the thousands of votes taken by the Soviet parliament over this period, none posed the bald question "Does parliament support a state of emergency?"

Some manoeuvre was always found to avoid it. Conversely, when action was taken — as in Georgia or Lithuania — Mr Gorbachev denied all responsibility, leaving the impression of a weak and chaotic leadership.

Time and again over the past six years, Mr Gorbachev has tried to reform the constitutional structures of the union, but he seemed always to be working against the grain. In one of history's tragic ironies, the bombastic Boris Yeltsin may yet become what Mikhail Gorbachev so longed to be: the constitutional leader of a legally governed state.

Nigel Hawkes argues that the inexorable demands of "big science" are starving smaller projects

Back to the bunsen

just one of several vast projects now at the planning stage. Both Europe and the United States want to build huge new accelerators to pursue the Higgs meson, a fragment of matter even more exotic and elusive than any they have hitherto found.

The American machine will cost \$8.25 billion, big money by anybody's standards, so Japanese arms are being twisted to fund a share of it. So far, however, the canny Japanese are playing hard to get.

Europe's idea is much cheaper, with a price tag of only \$1.4 billion, largely because it can be constructed in the existing tunnels at the CERN laboratory in Geneva. But warning comes have already been hoisted: if it goes ahead, something else in Britain's science budget will have to give. The curve of rising expectations among the physicists is about to intersect the line showing government funding.

It is easy to say that we must all

spend more so that the Higgs meson can be pinned down like a butterfly in a display case, so that bigger telescopes can gaze ever more readily at smaller and more remote objects, and so that the ideal of controlled fusion can be brought a little closer. By arguing (in my view falsely) that Britain's economic future depends on funding these and other projects, the proponents of big science shame others into silence for fear of being thought reactionary or anti-intellectual.

The truth is, however, that the point has already been reached when the demands of big science are damaging the enterprise as a whole. Last year's muddle in which the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) suddenly found itself short of the odd £30 million was a consequence of a bluff that went wrong.

The council overcommitted itself, assuming that extra money would somehow be found. When none was forthcoming, serious

damage was done. About 1,500 young scientists were deprived of research grants, and a decent medium-sized facility for studying nuclear structure was prematurely run down. All this was necessary because international subscriptions, like that to CERN, cannot remain unpaid.

The millstone of big science is not, of course, the only problem. The SERC, which published its annual report yesterday, claims that as a proportion of its total budget, the amount spent on particle physics has fallen in recent years. What some scientists would like to know, however, is whether exploring the nature of matter inevitably requires larger and larger machines, expanding apparatus without constraint and absorbing ever greater amounts of money, for that is the way things seem to be going.

If so, a halt will some day have to be called. And if not, why not now? This is not a frivolous question, though many physicists

think it heretical. As it happens, the physicists have evolved a theory of the Standard Model, which explains matter remarkably well. Existing accelerators cannot falsify it, much to the fury of the experimentalists — indeed, that is one reason why they want bigger ones. Most of us could live quite cheerfully with the Standard Model without feeling our curiosity unsatisfied.

While the fusion scientists have a definable target, the task of the particle physicists is open-ended. For every skin of the onion they peel away, more skins are exposed. No conclusion is in sight, or perhaps even possible. Meanwhile, the ambition for ever larger experiments is costing money that might otherwise be more fruitfully spent on more modest sciences.

One of the most exciting discoveries of recent years, the curious form of carbon known as buckminsterfullerene, was made with modest resources, and finally synthesised with equipment available in many school laboratories. Am I alone in finding that more encouraging for the future of science than the grandiose plans of the accelerator-builders?

Europe distracts the Tories

The Conservative party's arguments over Europe obscure rather than clarify the current state of politics. The action by the party's right wing has distracted attention from the less dramatic developments elsewhere which suggest a stalemate after the next election.

Using one of the Western Front metaphors that seem unavoidable in British politics, one of Neil Kinnock's shrewdest advisers summed up the current scene as "trench warfare". The inconclusive state of the major battle, though dull at present, may be more important in the long term than the spectacular engagement that is attracting most attention. The European debate is like, say, a Gallipoli campaign, which might affect the fate of ministers, but is unlikely to determine the outcome of the war.

Europe obsesses ministers and Tory MPs and dominates the conversations of the political classes to the exclusion of almost everything else. We all know that Sir Norman Fowler beat William Cash for the chairmanship of the Tory backbench European affairs committee. But can you name the chairman of another backbench committee (any one will do)?

There is no evidence that voters care very much about the details of a single currency or federalism. Europe barely features on pollsters' lists of the most important issues facing Britain today. In electoral terms, the Maastricht summit matters primarily in its impact on the public's image of John Major as prime minister. Will he be able to define himself as a successful leader independent of Mrs Thatcher? Will he be the prime minister who at last puts Britain's relations with Europe on a harmonious long-term footing?

There are plenty of risks. It is all very well confronting Margaret Thatcher and Norman Tebbit and their allies, but Mr Major cannot



The polls point to electoral stalemate, writes Peter Riddell

afford too many headlines about party splits. Insofar as voters care about the issue, they do not want Britain to be left out of European developments. Consequently, Mr Major cannot be seen to have failed at Maastricht. He may argue that no one could have negotiated a better deal, but he has presented himself as the prime minister who was going to put Britain at the heart of Europe.

The impact of Maastricht may be greater because voters are at present so undecided between the parties. Tory and Labour strategists and the pollsters are in broad agreement about the current state of play. Labour now has around 42-43 per cent support, and the Tories about 39-41 per cent. And that has broadly been the position since the early summer if fluctuations between individual polls are averaged out. As Robert Worcester of Mori points

out in the latest edition of *British Public Opinion*, "Labour's peak performance this year have coincided with periods when the NHS has topped the list of issues that the public says face the country."

The implication, however, is that the Tories and Labour may both fail to win an overall majority large enough to carry them through a full parliament. Talk of a hung parliament remains predictably taboo among ministers — most expect a 30 to 40 majority. But the Tories' most experienced former ministers and leading Labour politicians increasingly expect such an outcome.

The increased chance of a hung parliament is suggested by a study from the Barclays de Zoete Wedd securities house and consultants Horack, Adler and Associates. This model, based on data from the monthly Gallup 9000 sample, classifies constituencies into 28 groups, defined by a different combination of region, order of finish and margin in 1987. Results in the most closely fought seats "differ from the national trends: in 1987 the Tories reckon to have held nearly 20 of their critical seats, which they would have lost if voting had followed national trends.

The estimates are not comforting for either party. If the Tories and Labour each obtain between 35 and 45 per cent of the total vote, the last three months' analyses suggest that there is at least a 68 per cent chance of a hung parliament. But there is a

chance of a hung parliament. But there is a

chance of a hung parliament. But there is a

negligible 2-3 per cent chance of an overall Labour majority, and a less than 30 per cent chance of an overall Tory majority.

Too much weight should not be put on these conclusions, for they depend on small variations in marginal seats, which can change the margin. The Tories were slightly behind Labour at this stage of the 1987 electoral cycle, yet they won by a hundred seats. That is unlikely to be repeated, both because Labour's underlying position is stronger than it was then and because the third party's support is weaker than during the 1987. For either of the main parties to gain an overall majority, it must lose or win clear of the other. The 42-43 per cent share of the vote that the Tories gained in 1987 and 1989 might not be sufficient to produce a small working majority next year.

The electorate seems disinclined to give an enthusiastic endorsement to either party. One leading Tory strategist summed up the current mood thus: "The public likes John [Major], but wants to punish us for the fiasco we have given them over the last two or three years. Yet there is no real demand for change; so sign of the seismic shift in public mood seen in 1945, 1964 or 1979. No party has ever climbed as large a mountain as Labour faces (to gain an overall majority) without such a shift."

Labour leaders claim a shift towards their ground, as, for example, the Tories' acceptance of the need for increased spending on public services. But the Tory strategist is right: there is little of the change in mood seen before previous large switches of votes. The outcome of Maastricht may help to influence public views of Mr Major, but it is unlikely to produce a decisive shift in one direction or another. Neither the Tories nor Labour have yet made a convincing case to earn an overall majority.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

One for sorrow, two for joy. 17 for a real pain in the neck. Hang on, 18. The lawn looks like nothing so much as the foyer of the Old Bailey, a mob of paunchy barbers in *subfusc* waddling about and cackling defiantly at one another in a language none but they can comprehend.

It is the cackling that is the worst. That they are also gobbling everything in sight is of smaller concern, because that is nature's way, man was not put here for the purpose of running outside every minute to protect each berry and insect, there is a pecking order, and if you didn't want to be a worm, you shouldn't have joined.

But the cackling impinges directly upon me. The cackling is the frontier at which man and magpie clash. It brings the magpies into my bedroom. At, for they know the one about early birds, 6.30am. And I did not shell out good money on an alarm clock to be woken up an hour earlier by squadrons of *pica pica* scrambling for a dawn sortie and so refusing to maintain radio silence that the mullions rattle. *Pica pica*, by the way, is not an old Edmund Spenser favourite, it is the name ornithology has given to the magpie, and if you look it up in the *OED* you will discover that it means a pathological craving for peculiar food. I do not need to look it up. I need only to look out of the window, because among those who are not drilling the lawn is one which is maniacally attempt-

ing to pierce a wall-nail from the fence and another which appears to be going six rounds with the watering can.

This cannot continue: I said to myself this morning, and reached for the phone-book. I could not find the Royal Society for the Extermination of Birds (fashionable driven it ex-directory), but there was a number for one which regally protects them, so I rang it. After all, while the last thing I wanted was to protect them, that was the first thing the RSPB wanted, and if they knew I was about to run amok with a cleaver, they might well intervene with some kind of compromise. Lord Carrington, say, might have a free moment.

I was not wrong. "Yes," said the RSPB, "there are abnormally large numbers about. Of course, the magpie is not a protected species, but I imagine you don't want to shoot them." (there you have it, some people have imagination, some don't) "so what we advise is that you make a cardboard cut-out of a bird of prey and put it on a pole in the garden. That often discourages them."

"What kind of bird of prey?" I said.

"We tend to recommend the kite," she replied.

I thanked her, and went to find *The Observer Book of Birds*. It said that the kite was now found only in Wales. Nothing about Crickwood. There was clearly no point in nailing up a magpie-killer if the magpies did not

know that that was what it was. It was not, after all, going to show what it was by killing any of them. Cardboard doesn't do that.

I flipped through the book. The shag looked really horrible. Sadly, it craves only fish. I'd had a lawful of herrings I will be on to a winner with the shag, but that is not what I have. I flipped on. It would have to be a kestrel. The kestrel lives everywhere. Unfortunately, it preys only on small birds, because it is never more than 13in high, but I was up to that. I would make it twice the size. It would be the biggest kestrel the magpies had ever seen. They would all have cardiac infarcts on the spot.

The largest cardboard I had was a carton which had once contained a radiator, the only paint I had ("slate grey head, chestnut back," said the book) was water-colour. This immediately soaked into the cardboard. I now had a giant beige kestrel with "DIMPLEX" written on its body, in red. Never mind: how literate could a magpie be?

So I went outside with the kestrel behind my back and I shouted so that the birds would fly off and not twig what was up, and I stuck the kestrel in the middle of the garden, and I ran back inside to watch and wait, and sure enough, it made a tremendous impact on the magpies.

Even as I write, there are four of them slashing away at it. Only "PLEX" is left. In ten more minutes, they'll have eaten the lot.

Diplomatic shuffle

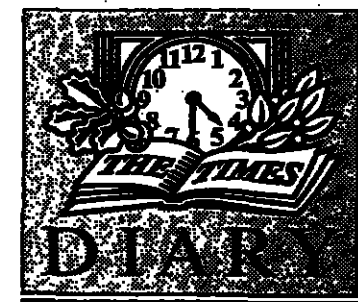
IS our man in Moscow, Sir Rodric Braithwaite, going to be the last British ambassador to the Soviet Union? Douglas Hurd has already begun taking soundings on who should succeed Braithwaite when he retires in May, but the debate at the Foreign Office is not just about the name of the successor. It is also about whether the title should change to reflect the break up of the empire.

The title, Ambassador to Russia, seems to be winning favour at the Foreign Office, but it is far from settled. Braithwaite's successor may also serve some of the fledgling 12 republics.

Three candidates for the job have already emerged. Michael Jenkins, 55-year-old ambassador to The Netherlands, is strongly tipped. The career diplomat has had one stint at Moscow, and written a book on Russian history. He would be ideally suited to Moscow bureaucracy: he worked for several years as an official at the European Commission.

One favourite is Nigel Broomfield, our last ambassador to East Germany, who has been behind a desk at the Foreign Office in London since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Fluent in Russian, and a former amateur squash champion, the tall, lugubrious figure, with an army background, has caught the eye of the foreign secretary.

So too has Brian Fall, the high commissioner to Canada, who is also fluent in Russian. Hurd is attracted to the qualities of Fall because he is vocal, articulate and unashamedly argumentative. But Broomfield is expected to prevail because Foreign Office mandarins don't want him clicking his heels in London.



The Foreign Office refuses to comment on the appointment. But whoever succeeds may have a different role. "The old pattern has been broken, and a new one is developing. Our representation is likely to develop as the relationship between the republics and the centre develops." As the debate continues about the title, there is the prospect of a classic Foreign Office compromise with our man in Moscow taking over our man in Moscow covering the republics. But will the mandarins be able to resist a dozen new jobs for the boys?

● A BBC radio reporter has learnt how not to interview touchy foreign leaders. In the middle of an interview this week with Colonel Gaddafi in Benghazi, he asked whether the colonel still supported international terrorism. Whereupon a posse of Gaddafi's burly minders descended and removed him. One whispered: "You're very lucky that you're not a British policeman," and laughed. The BBC man didn't.

Let them eat baubles
ON the first day of Christmas there will be more than partridges in the trees outside London's Natural History Museum. Flocks of birds are expected to descend on the garden's ornamental cherry trees (sadly, there are no pear

trees), enticed by edible Christmas decorations which go up next month.

Common Ground, an environmental body, is planning a workshop where youngsters will be able to create decorations stuffed with a choice selection of nuts, chopped fruit, berries and seeds.

"We obviously have a problem about how to attach the nuts and fruits in a non-toxic way," says Gill Harrison from the Natural History Museum. "So we are going to thread the edible ingredients to cardboard leaf shapes and the other Christmas decorations, or stuff them into cones." The results will then be suspended from the trees to entice the passing wildlife. Doubtless pigeons will spread the message.



When I say so
President Slobodan Milosevic does not take no for an answer. The Serbian leader was due to meet a delegation from the Commons foreign affairs select committee on Monday in the presidential palace in Belgrade, but he was running late, so his office rang the airport where the MPs were preparing to fly to Vienna that

day, and asked the Austrian airline to delay their flight by an hour.

But the Austrians, no friends of Milosevic, and leading supporters of recognition for Croatia, took great delight in turning down the president's request.

Undeterred, Milosevic's aides telephoned the airport manager and ordered him to shut down the airport for an hour.

Beaulieu beauties
AN electric child's car, which was once a favourite toy of the Queen and Princess Margaret, is to go on public show.

The Queen has lent the pint-sized model, which is still in working order, to an exhibition at Beaulieu National Motor Museum, to mark her 40th anniversary on the throne next year.

The Queen and Princess Margaret used to take it in turns to drive the car in the 1930s, and because so attached to it that they couldn't bear to throw it away. The car will have pride of place in the exhibition, which opens in April and will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the museum.

One of Prince Andrew's favourite toys, a miniature of the Aston Martin driven by Sean Connery in the James Bond film *Goldfinger* will also go on display. Like the Queen, the prince could not bear to throw away his car, which has revolving number plates and fake machine-guns.

Michael Ware, curator of the National Motor Museum, says: "We felt that the state limousines were rather boring. People will find the private cars much more interesting."

Lord Montagu, who set up the museum on his Hampshire estate, will also show his father's 1899 Deimler, in which he was pictured with the future Edward VII outside Highcliffe Castle.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Breakfast News 9.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on 2: *Quanza Minutes 9.15 Teaching Today 9.45 Warn.*
Food 10.00 Look and Read 10.20 Around Scotland 10.40 Into Music 11.00 Lets See 11.15 English Express 11.35 TVG: Roots in the Jungle 12.00 English File 12.30 Scene 12.50 Tutorial Topics 1.30 Standard Grade English 1.50 The Broklys 1.35 Crystal Tipps and Jests: 1.40 English Times: Writing
2.00 News and weather followed by Words and Pictures For five to seven-year olds (I)
2.15 Sport on Friday presented by Helen Rollason. Includes commentary from the Diet Pepsi online Challenge tennis tournament from Birmingham and racing from Ascot: *2.40 Racedail Hurdle, 3.10 Hurd Park Novices' Steeplechase, 3.40 Lion Gals Handicap Hurdle race.* Also a full European football round up. Includes at 3.00 News and weather and at 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Word game hosted by Paul Coia
4.30 CLIC. Steve Eggington investigates the work of the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust
5.00 Behind the Headlines. Shyma Perera talks to Danny Simon, the man credited with teaching Woody Allen all he knows about comedy
5.30 Todaycar. The motoring magazine considers how to combat urban traffic congestion; compares the new Citroën XM estate with the Audi 100 Avant; and puts the Ford Bronco through its paces (I)
6.00 Thunderbirds: The Perils of Penelope. Supermanonette Lady Penelope is embroiled in dangerous game of espionage (Ceetax)
6.50 Delta Smith's Christmas. Guide to preparing festive fare (I)
7.25 Bait. The *Baiters* Boycott (Archi). Phil Sives beats the gambling ban (I)
9.45 What the Papers Say with Richard Littlejohn *The Sun*
9.45 Public Eye: Disposing of Hazardous Waste - A Burning Issue. EC regulations will soon prohibit the export of toxic waste. Incineration is currently the most popular alternative, but is it the best? Ian Brnach investigates



Historical celebration of the domestic cat: Roger Tabor (8.30pm)

8.30 Cats: Felines and Pharaohs
 © Chris. The cat is said to become the world's most popular pet. Which is a good excuse for this five-part celebration, presented by an enthusiastic biologist and naturalist, Roger Tabor. His treatment is historical, starting not in some suburban lounge but in ancient Egypt. It was here, according to the best available evidence, that the cat was first domesticated. If it certainly played a central role in Egyptian life, as well paintings testify. It was even worshipped as a god and, like the pharaohs, was mummified after death. Tabor suggests that the domestic pet may have been a hybrid, a cross between the wildcat and the jungle cat. A recent discovery by French archeologist of thousands of cat mummies may help to clear up the mystery. At least these remains will be treated with respect during the 19th century mummified cats were plundered in Europe and ground down for fertilizer.

9.00 Clocchemie, Episode seven of the classic comedy about petty bureaucracy in a small rural French town (r)

9.30 The Power and the Glory: Racing for the Reich. The history of motor racing examines Hitler's plans for victory on the grand prix circuits, and tells how swastikas adorned vehicles specially created for the Führer. Includes the 1934 Grand Prix and Auto Union.

10.00 Have I Got News for You, Ian Haplog and Paul Merton as they quip their way through the week's news with the help of guests Trevor McDonald and Craig Ferguson

10.30 Newswatch with Peter Snow

11.15 Scrutiny focuses on select committees at the House of Commons

11.45 The Night Train. Richard O'Brien introduces late-night cult horror shows, starting at 11.50 **The Energy Eater** which is killing off patients and staff at a new hospital and, at 12.40am **Dimensions of Dialogue**, an animated exploration of the old adage "you are what you eat". Finally, at 12.55 **Film: Dragstrip Girl** (1957) starring Fay Spain. Low budget nonsense about illegal teenage drag racing. Directed by Edward L. Cahn



10.20 Omnibus: Ulster Says Ho Ho Ho.

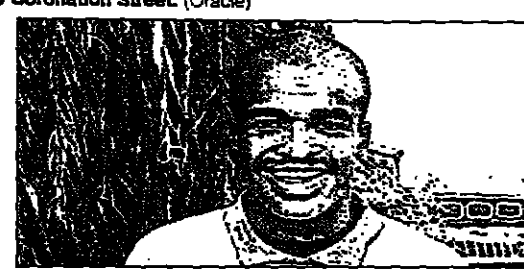
● **CHOICE:** Andrew Eaton's diverting film shows how the people of Northern Ireland resist the violence and the bigotry. They make jokes about it. The comedians range from small boys on street corners to the incomparable Frank Carson. There is a chap who rings up Gerry Adams pretending to be Ian Paisley. Lots of comics impersonate Paisley, mainly because he is so easy to impersonate. Paisley appears in the film with a joke against himself but he is not in the Frank Carson class. There is the comedian who is told that if he does Paisley he will insult half his audience. Now he does the Pope and insults them all. The blackest humour tends to stay on the fringes but even the BBC has put on a show which the Reverend Paisley denounced as sacrilegious. There is one complaint against an otherwise excellent programme. Several of the gags will be lost on viewers in the UK mainland because of the thick Ulster accents. It is surely time to think about subtitles.

11.10 Film: Crossroads (1986). Touching, offbeat road movie with an outstanding soundtrack by guitarist Ry Cooder. A teenage blues freak (played by Ralph Macchio of the *Karate Kid*) tracks down an ageing musician (Joe Seneca) and they head south for Mississippi. Directed by Walter Hill. (*Ceejay*) (s). Northern Ireland 11.40-1.22

Film: Meteor

ITV


- 6.00 **TU-om**
- 9.25 **Jeopardy!** Quiz show hosted by Steve Jones 5.55 **Thames News** and weather
- 10.00 **The Times . . . The Place . . .** Topical discussion series chaired by Mike Scott
- 10.40 **This Morning.** Family magazine presented by Derek Jameson and his wife Ellen Today's edition includes fashion and beauty advice and a vegetarian recipe In Kenya Rosie Kelly and Siobhan Richmond visit a tribal jewellery collective whose products are to be used in Yves Saint-Laurent's winter collection With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
- 12.10 **Rainbow.** Educational series for young viewers
- 12.30 **News** with John Suchet (Oracle) Weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather
- 1.20 **Home and Away.** Family drama series from Australia (Oracle)
- 1.50 **Country Practice.** Medical drama serial set in the Australian outback (Oracle)
- 2.20 **Contacts.** A repeat of last night's television poetry hearts show
- 2.50 **Talkabout.** Word game show hosted by Andrew O'Connor
- 3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors** Australian medical drama set in a large city hospital
- 3.55 **The Raggy Dolls.** Animated adventures 4.05 **Victor and Hugo.** Cartoon adventures of two bumbling Gallic thieves (S) 4.30 **Knightmare.** Adventure game show for children, set in a computerized dungeon 5.00 **Roadrunner.** Cartoon
- 5.10 **Home and Away** (R) (Oracle)
- 5.40 **ITN News.** (Oracle) Weather
- 5.55 **Sn'O'Clock Live.** Frank Baugh's guests include actor John Inman, voluble disc jockey Chris Tarrant and *London's Burning* stars Sean Blowers and Rupert Baker who talk about their Harley Davidson motorbikes Followed by **LWT News** and weather.
- 6.55 **Workise.** The first of a weekend series of help and advice for the unemployed
- 7.00 **The \$64,000 Question.** Paul Hammett and Sheila Atree compete in this week's round of the profitable quiz show presented by Bob Monkhouse
- 7.30 **Conan the Great.** Street (Oracle)



Making a charitable wager: athlete Kriss Akabusi (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **You Bet!** Last in the present series of Matthew Kelly's zany wagers show features competitive jigsaw-solving by two JCB drivers and a Red Hot Chili Peppers performing a rousing acoustic stunt. Guest gamblers this week are actor Mark Wingett (DC Carver in *The Bar*), athlete Kniss Akabusi and Craig Charles, presenter of *Them and Us*
- 9.00 **The Professionals: Not a Very Civil, Civil Servant.** Martin Shaw and Lewella Collins star as the macho 1970s C15 agents, routing out corruption and murder on the streets of London's housing estate. With the late Gordon Jackson as their boss, Cowley
- 10.00 **Nods at Ten.** (Oracle) Weather 10.35 **LWT News** and weather
- 10.40 **The London Programme.** Trevor Phillips presents an investigation into the crisis facing the capital's children's homes. Does the new Children Act offer hope for improvement in the residential care system or will it increase the current pressure on carers?
- 11.10 **291 Club.** Amateur variety acts brave a highly critical audience at the Hackney Empire
- 12.10am **Married... with Children.** American domestic comedy series
- 1.35 **Alan Parker's Commitments.** Documentary about the making of director Parker's latest feature film, from audition to completion. The development of his Dublin soul movie is charted through footage of auditions and interviews with the director and cast. Also includes clips from the film
- 1.05 **The James Whale Radio Show.** More bold phone-in viewers brave the insults of the controversial host (s)
- 2.05 **American Gladiators.** Trials of strength and ingenuity for both sexes
- 3.35 **Raw Power.** Rock video show
- 4.35 **The Sleeping Partnerships.** Coverage of a new, complicated and highly competitive sport
- 5.30 **ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sarah Barclay. Sir Peter Dinkley, interviewed. Chris. Green, MP, on the controversial asylum rules and the Tory party's role over Europe
12.30 Business Daily. Reports from the world's money markets
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series
2.00 Art of the Western World. Michael Wood continues his series tracing the history of Western art with an exploration of the neo-classical revival in 18th-century France and England (7)
2.30 Film: Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1938, b/w)
 e CHOICE. Hollywood films used to be dismissed as an escape from life. Now they are seen as a rich source for contemporary attitudes and values. *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* is interesting for its timing. The film was made nearly three years before Pearl Harbour when much of United States opinion was still strongly isolationist. Yet the film is evidence of a contrary trend, the growing concern among Americans about the threat of fascism. This is represented in the story of an FBI man (Edward G. Robinson) charged with the task of rooting out Nazi sympathisers within America. They are played by Francis Lederer, George Raft, George Raft and George Sanders. Some of the plot stretches credibility, though *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* was based on real events. At any rate, it is a crisp and exciting film, deftly handled by the director Anatole Litvak. He, interestingly, was a Jew who left Germany when Hitler came to power
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. General knowledge quiz
5.00 Cutting Edge: Home Fires. The story of the Gulf war through the eyes of the women whose sons and husbands took part in the conflict (7) (Teletext)
6.00 Roseanne. Rasping blue-collar comedy (1)
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests are sculptor Shaun Clarkson, songwriter Bob Dildine and Titania, a witch who intends to cast a spell over the audience (5)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)
 Weather
7.50 First Reaction Paul Marley reflects on the music industry's seasonal music spinner - the Christmas record
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a Merseyside close (Teletext) (5)
8.30 The Deceivers. A *Survival* documentary exploring the ways the moth manages to deceive its many predators (Teletext)

Bedroom capers: Ted Danson and Kirstie Alley (9.00pm)
9.00 Cheers. The first programme of the tenth series of the popular comedy set in a Boston bar. Sam and Rebecca have decided on parenthood without the inconvenience of marriage. Starring Ted Danson and Kirstie Alley (Teletext) (5)
9.30 Nature Perfected: Paradise on Earth
 e CHOICE. Hard on the heels of BBC's *Dream Gardens* comes a similar series on the same theme. The approach, however, is chronological rather than thematic, going back to the Romans - and taking the story through the middle ages and the Renaissance. Tonight's opening programme sets the scene by looking at examples in half a dozen countries, including Claude Monet's water garden which was also featured in the BBC series. The programme offers the mundane reminder that all gardens spring from man's basic need to survive by growing food. The idea is perpetuated in modern Japan where each year the emperor steps into a paddy field for a symbolic planting of rice. It is a long way from the splendour of Versailles, created by men who did not have to worry about life's necessities. But all of this is by way of introduction. The real business starts next week (Teletext) (5)
10.00 Dream On: The Second Greatest Story Ever Told. The first of three-part comedy story in which Martin (Brian Benben) finds himself with a bit part in a film about the man who stole his wife. David Bowie plays the film's director. (Teletext) (5)
10.30 City of Dreadful Night. The story of the life of Claude Edward Heath. Jimmy Greaves and comedian John Hegley
11.15 The Word. Youth-oriented entertainment magazine. Among those appearing are Hollywood actor Patrick Swayze who discusses surfing. Music is provided by Black Sheep, Tesla and Extreme (5)
12.15am Ring My Bell presented by Laune Pike. Those at the end of the line that includes Lindy St James, leader of the Collective party, drag queen Rupaul and Professor Norman Stone (5)
1.00 Tonight With Jonathan Ross (7). Ends at 1.30



Bedroom scene: Ted Danson and Kirstin Alley (19.00pm)

9.00 **Cheers.** The first programme of the tenth series of the popular comedy set in a Boston bar. Sam and Rebecca have decided on parenthood without the inconvenience of marriage. Starring Ted Danson and Kirstie Alley. (40 mins)

9.30 **Nature Perfect: Paradise on Earth**
● **CHOICE** Hard on the heels of BBC's *Ten Great Gardens* comes a six-part series on much the same subject. The approach, however, is chronological rather than thematic, going back to the Romans and taking the story through the middle ages and the Renaissance to the present. The programme sets the scene by looking at examples in hard-to-garden countries, including Claude Monet's water garden which was also featured in the BBC series. The programme offers the mundane reminder that all gardens spring from man's basic need to survive by growing food. The idea is perpetuated in modern Japan where each year the emperor steps out on a paddy field for a symbolic planting of rice. It is a long way from the garden of Eden, but the programme does make you have to worry about life's necessities. But all of this is by way of introduction. The real business starts next week. (Teletext: 13)

10.00 **Dream On: The Second Greatest Story Ever Told.** The first of three-part comedy story in which Martin (Brian Benben) finds himself with a bit part in a film about a man who stole his wife from him. (Teletext: 13)

10.35 **Clive Anderson Talks Back.** His guests include Edward Heath, Jimmy Greaves and comedian John Hiegley

11.15 **The Word.** Youth-oriented entertainment magazine. Among those appearing are Hollywood actor Patrick Swayze who discusses surfing. Music is provided by Black Sheep, Tesla and Extreme (sponsored by Virgin Records). (Teletext: 13)

12.15 **Starline This Week** Includes Lindy St Clair, leader of the Collective party, drag queen Rupaal and Professor Norman Stone (s)

10.00 **Tonight With Jonathan Ross** (p) Ends at 1.30

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

• **11:55** *Vis the Astra and Mercopoli satellites.*
• **5.00pm** *The Jet Kat* 9.10 *Catrina*
8.55 *Playboy* 8.55 *Day Out* 8.40 *Earth*
8.35 *TV* 8.30 *Movie* 8.20 *The Young Doctors* 11.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful*
11.30 *The Young and the Restless* 12.30
Barney Jones 1.30 *Another World* 2.50
2.55 *TV* 3.00 *Movie* 3.45 *TV* 3.55
The Brady Bunch 3.45 *The Jet Kat* Show
5.00 *Different Strains* 5.30 *Beverly Hills*
5.50 *Family Ties* 5.30 *One Fates More* 7.00 *Love*
7.15 *TV* 7.30 *Movie* 8.00 *TV* 8.15
8.30 *Police* 9.00 *Hunter* 10.00 *WWF*
Superstars of Wrestling 11.00 *The Friday*
Night Night Feature: *The Unimale*
(1989) 1.00am *Pages from Skyline*

track a cop killer
1.15 *Sundown - The Vampire in Retreat*
(1989): Home comedy about a blood-
sucking group of vampires in the
2.55 *Old Man* (1989): Four enterpre-
neurs form a house-moving company
4.20 *No Holds Barred* (1989): Champion-
wrestler *Big Boy* receives a surprise
offer from a television network. Ends at
5.00pm

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

• **6:15am** *The Astra and Mercopoli satellites.*
6.15am *The Desert Rats* (1959): Second
world war drama about the siege of
Gaza. Ends at 7.00am
7.00am *TV* 7.15am *Movie* 7.30am
7.45am *The Napoleon* (1964): An English captain
10.15 *Champion* (1948), *Myk*, *Kirk Douglas*
10.45am *An Uncommon Romance*
12.15pm *Slap, Stockings* (1957): Mat-
thews as *Aztec* in *Silvermaster* who sets out

NEWS

to view the ASBS test music/poetry sessions.
 News on the hour.
 5.30 Newsline 5.30
 Newsline 10.30 Those Were The Days 11.00
 Dayline Hour 12.30 CBS News 1.30 CBS
 News 2.30 Our World 3.30 Our World:
 The Countryside Show 4.30 Those Were
 The Days 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30
 Those Were The Days 10.30 Newsline 11.30
 CBS News 12.00am Newsline 1.30 CBS
 News 2.30 Holiday Dinner 3.30 Our
 World 4.30 The Line 5.30 Our

MOVIES:

SKY TV HISTORY

● **Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites** and 8.40 Entertainment Tonight

10.00 Not Just Another Hero! (1982) *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*

10.15 *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* (1982) *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*

12.00 Gemini: A High school footballer is forced to play at his gambling debts

2.00pm Greyfriars (1978) Western about a school for the Indian who kidnapped his daughter

4.00 The Adams Are Here! (1988) *Alens* broadcast the Adams' Copulation

5.00 Entertainment Tonight

6.00 A Perfect Thruway (1990) A Southern boy (Lucas Hesse) travels across the United States to find his father who has been wounded brother at Geraltburg

8.00 Look Who's Talking (1985) Cab driver Lucio (Kevin Costner) meets a woman (Kirsten Alley) who Bruce Willis voices the thoughts of baby Mary 9.40 US Top Ten

10.00 Paint It Black (1989) An innovative rock band (The Travelers) battles with a beautiful guitar owner (Sally Kirkland)

11.00 *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* (1982) *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*

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RADIO 1

Let's Dig Lunch 3.00 Sirone Whinger in the Afternoon 5.30 News 91.00 Round Table 7.30 The Essential Selection 10.00 Friday Rock Show 12.00 Loose Talk 12.00 12.30-4.00am Andy Peacock Double Bit (FM only) Soul Train 2.30 Night Train

RADIO 2

David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Gyles Brandstetter 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Journey in Space The World in Peril (part 1) 7.30 Friday Night to Saturday Night 8.45 Radio 2 Breakfast 9.00

at 12.25. Lunch at 12.30. Then to the

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm
6.00pm World Service Newsflash 6
Morning Edition 9.00am Sports 10.25 1. 2. 3. 4.
Update 1.15 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826.

Single panel game: 10:30 News.
 11:00: Sport

[illegible]

and the Stage Door 3.00 World News
and Britain, 4.15 BBC English 4.30

5:15 The World Today 5.30 Londres 8.14 Sport 12.00 News 3.00 Today 5.00
Aktuel 7.00 German Features 7.54 News 8.00 World News and Business
8.15 Londres Demarre 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 NewsHour 10.00 World News
10.15 Londres 10.20 Megazine 10.50 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.05 World Business
Roundup 11.15 WorldNet 12.00 NewsDesk 12.30 Sports From the Weeklist 4.00 World News
Tunick 1.30 Short Story, Classics 1.45 Jazz 2.00 News 2.15 Jazz Now and Then 2.30
Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Sports
Roundup 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsdesk

COMPILED BY SUSAN MOORE AND GILLIAN MAXEY

CHOICE PETER WAYMAR

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather: News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Ireland (A. Larkin) (Century); Handel (Art. Bonifant) (Troubad, Rocklinde); Bach (Cortège)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont):
 Sullivan (Overture of Ball);
 Hoffmeister (Flute Concerto in G);
 Delibes (Stille, Coppélia)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week:
 Elgar. Pomp and Circumstance March No 5 in C, Op 69 (LPO under Adrian Elgar); Romance, Op 62 (Daniel Smith); bassoon, Roger Vinholes; piano; Shakespeare's King Lear (Sarah Walker); Graham Johnson, piano; Soliloquy (Bournemouth Philharmonic Orchestra under Mr. Mer, with Leon Goossens, cello); Coronation Ode, Op 47 (Scottish National Orchestra); Great Chorus under Alexander Gibson)
9.35 Morning Sequence: A sequence of international music inspired by Shakespeare
12.00 Ulster Orchestra under Brydon Thomson performs Dvorak (Symphony No 1 in C minor, The Slave of Zlonice) (I)
1.00pm News
1.05 Chamber Music from Manchester: The pianist John McCabe plays Haydn (Sonata in G minor, H XVI 44); E. Arnold (Variations on a Ukrainian Folk Song); Haydn (Sonata in E flat, H XVI 44)
2.00 Soundings (I)
3.00 Mirning the Archive: A recital by the late tenor Richard Lewis. Schubert (Die Forelle); Strauss des Harners, D 478-480; with Ernest Lush, piano; Britten (Canticale I, Ernst and Isaac, Op 51; with Mary Thomas, soprano, Abraham Lush, piano); Quilter (O Love, My Love); Quilter (O Love, My Love); Mine; Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal; Fear No More the Heat of the Sun (The Glee Club); Williams (The New Ghost); Williams (Sleep: Away to Twinkl, The Fox; with Martin Isopp, piano); Richard Lewis talks to Bernard Keefe
4.15 BBC Concert Orchestra under Sir John Wordsworth performs Chatrier (Fête polonoise); Bösser (Petite Suite); Debussy, orch Bösser (Petite Suite); Franck (Symphonic poem, Les Éolides)
5.00 Merry for Pleasure

6.30 The Tartan Touch: Alun Morgan concentrates on the late 1830s, in the second of six programmes on the American pianist Art Tatum
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear: The watercolour artist Lesita Worth talks to Michael Spender about his response to atmosphere and weather conditions
7.30 Haydn/Arnold Festival: Live from Studio 1, BBC
 Philharmonic under Edward Downes performs Haydn (Symphony No 74 in E flat); Arnold (Trumpet Concerto; John Wallace); & Philip Lanchester Soli-Fa, 8.10
 Weaver explores the world of contrabassoonists and woodwind-bronchitis in 19th century Lanchester, 8.30
 Arnold (Trumpet Concerto in E flat); Arnold (Symphony No 5)
9.25 During the Daphne
 @ CHOICE: A programme follows about the decline of English as a religious language, Jeremy Hargreaves looks at a world in which to quote Donald Davis, linguistic sensibility is constrained by scepticism and which, as Seamus Heaney puts it, even common language is vacated of religious vantage. The Australian poet Les A. Murray is converted to Catholicism, not his colours to the mast by proclaiming that religion is the branch of poetry committed with the presence of God. Macmillan, R.S. Thomas, speaking, unusually, in English instead of God's own language (Welsh) recuses himself from the "playing around on the fringes of the human psyche"
10.10 Pargson Ensemble under David Davies, with Christine Cairns, mezzo, performs Debussy, an Esler (Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune); Busoni, an Schöenberg; Mahler, an Schöenberg (Lieder eines unheimlichen Gesangs); Benediktsson (Imposing a Regular Pattern in Chorus) (heterophony — first broadcast); Hindemith (Kammermusik No 1)
11.30 News
11.35-12.05 Alan Composers of the Week: Bizet (I)
1.00-2.25 Night Night (FIM only): (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(a) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 5.00
 News Briefing: Weather, till
 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming
 Today 6.35 Prayer for the Day,
 with Haddon Wimer (6.30)
 Today, with John Humphrys in
 the belated morning (6.30-7.30,
 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55
 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 8.40
 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55
 Weather

9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue
 Walker's castaway is the
 belatedly moribund Lord
 Delfont (8) (t)
9.45 Feedback: Chris Dunkley airs
 his views and comments on
 radio programmes and policy
10.00-10.30am Dear Diary (FM
 only). Simon Brett dips into
 the diaries for November
 15 (s)
10.00 News; Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only). Joshua
 reads the second
 of four episodes from the
 Authorised Version
10.30 Woman's Hour from
 Birmingham talks at different
 aspects of dance, including a
 state of the art discussion and
 interviews with balletroom
 dance teacher Peggy
 Spencer, and Bonnie Langford

11.30 The Natural History
 Programme. Jessica Holt
 visits Scotland and reports on
 waders on the Firth of Forth.
 pink-footed geese north of
 Edinburgh; grey seals on the
 Isle of May; and red deer in
 the Abernethy Forest

12.00 News; You and Yours, with
 David Thompson

12.25pm The Food Programme.
 Derek Cooper asks why prison
 food causes riots 12.35
 Weather

1.00 World at One, with Nick
 Clarke

1.40 The Archers (t) 1.55 Shipping
 Forecast

2.00 News; Classic Series The
 Personal History of David
 Copperfield. My Beloved Dora,
 the ninth of a ten-part
 adaptation of Charles
 Dickens's novel (t) (f)

3.00 News; Special Assignment:
 Philip Short reports on the
 prospects for peace in
 Cambodia

3.30 Bookshelf, with Nigel Forde.
 Christopher Powell and
 Stephanie Pettall select the
 best children's books for
 Christmas

4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope: Natalia Wilehen
 visits this year's Bellini
 Festival, as part of *Radio Goe*
to Town, and meets Carmen
 Jueby, stageflyer Sam
 McCauley, and festival
 director Michael Barnes (s)
4.45 Short Story: Wiggins, by Alice
 Munro. Read by Margaret
 Robertson (fink) (t)

5.00 PM, with Frank Partridge and
 Hugh Sykes 5.50 Shipping
 Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Sir O'Clock News
6.30 Gorp Places: Janet Trewin
 interviews comedian in travel
 7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris
 Sire

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan
 Dimbleby is joined in Belfast
 by John Hume, MP, MEP,
 leader of the Social
 Democratic and Labour party
 the Rev Ian Paisley, MP, MEP
 leader of the Democratic
 Unionist party; Dr Marjane
 Mowlam, MP, shadow
 spokesperson on trade and
 industry; and Michael Malpas,
 MP, chairman of the select
 committee on defence and
 the all-party Anglo-Irish group
 in action, with Michael
 Birtley

8.50 The Bible, with Michael
 Birtley

9.15 Kaleidoscope: The Grey
 Coast: Mike Moran takes a
 literary journey through the
 west of the Scottish author
 Neil Gunn (s) (t)
9.45 Letter from America, by Alisa
 Cooke 9.55 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with
 Richard Kershaw (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: *Fudge*, by
 James Herbert. Read by Peter
 Kelly (t) (s)

11.00 The Evening David Tate,
 Sally Garg and Bill Wallis will
 a satirical review of the week's
 news (s)

11.25 The Financial Week, with
 Heather Payton (s)
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, and 12.27
 Weather 12.35 Shipping 12.35
 World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/272m; FM 87.5-97.9. Radio
 2: 89.3kHz/433m; 93.3kHz/330m; FM 89.9-92.4. Radio 3: 21.5MHz/4.7m, FM 82.9-
 92.4. Radio 4: 199.4kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.9. Radio 5: 630kHz/433m;
 908kHz/433m; LBC: 1529kHz/251m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m;
 95.8. GLR: 1459kHz/206m; FM 94.8; World Service: 1548kHz/463m.

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Kremlin financed British agitators

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE Communist Party of Great Britain received substantial annual cash payments, amounting in one year to £100,000, from the Soviet embassy in London up until 1979, a former senior British party official admitted yesterday.

Only a handful of British communist leaders knew of the payments, which were partly used to subsidise trade union agitation and the party's daily paper, the *Morning Star*. The regular payments also helped to keep the cash-strapped party afloat.

In an article in the current issue of the party's magazine, *Changes*, Reuben Falber, a former assistant general secretary of the party, discloses that between 1958 and 1979 he regularly met Soviet diplomats to collect packets stuffed with money.

Conservative MPs have long suspected that the British party was being subsidised by the Kremlin. But it is the first time that a British party official has admitted that the link existed.

Yesterday, Nina Temple, the party's general secretary, praised Mr Falber's decision to speak out but condemned "the secret nature of this episode in the party's history".

Mr Falber decided to disclose details of the funding after a journalist from *The Sunday Times* contacted him and asked him about two payments in 1978. According to documents in the possession of the journalist, two sums, one of £14,000 and another of £15,000, had been handed over to Mr Falber by a KGB agent.

In his article, Mr Falber said that from 1958 to 1979 he had received "substantial sums of money from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union via employees of the Soviet embassy". He said he did not know whether the diplomats were intelligence officers.

Money was also passed on from the embassy to British communists to launder and to send to other foreign parties. Mr Falber is adamant that there were no strings attached to the subsidies. "During all those years we were expressing our differences with the Soviet Union with increasing frequency and vehemence,"

According to Mr Falber, "no promises of support for Soviet policies were asked or given".

In 1980, the payments stopped when the party's finances improved after the sale of property in London.



Pennies from heaven: children surround the Very Rev Michael Higgins, the Dean of Ely, yesterday as they put the fun into fund raising by forming the shape of a giant smile on the Cathedral Green at Ely. More than 500 pupils were launching a schools fund-raising drive called "Buy a tile - Raise a smile" to help to reroof the Sue Ryder Home for chronically ill patients at the OM Palace, Ely, Cambridgeshire

Ministers claim triple victory in Brussels power struggle

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MINISTERS believe they have secured three important victories in their efforts to deny Brussels extensive new powers over domestic affairs.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, is said to be confident of defeating moves by the European Commission to impose strict limits on the working week and to outlaw Sunday trading. He also believes he has delayed indefi-

nately commission plans to impose German-style patterns of employee consultation on British firms trading across EC frontiers.

Meanwhile, John Patten, the home office minister, yesterday claimed success in blocking an attempt by the commission to have a say in British criminal law. At a meeting of EC justice ministers, which ended late on

Wednesday, Mr Patten secured an agreement that the European Community would not interfere with the British criminal justice system.

Senior Whitehall sources disclosed that the Dutch presidency of the EC had abandoned ambitions of pushing through the working time directive by the end of the year and decided to schedule it for no more than preliminary dis-

cussion at the social affairs council on December 3. The working time directive is also expected to get only cursory consideration at the employment ministers' meeting.

The fate of the bitterly contested working time directive, which could limit the working week throughout the EC to 48 hours including overtime, would then be consigned to the Portuguese presidency, which takes over in January. Ministers believe the Portuguese are unlikely to press the matter.

Ministers are also saying that the Dutch have lowered their sights after pushing through a directive increasing payments to pregnant women workers.

With Vasso Papatheou, the EC social affairs commissioner and driving force behind implementation of the social charter expected to bow out at the end of next year, Mr Howard believes he has won a vital breathing space.

Thousands flee on EC ship

Continued from page 1

retary had held separate talks in the past two days with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, and General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister.

Lord Carrington said he would report back to the EC and Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy. He also proposed that the UN send an envoy to discuss deployment of peacekeeping forces.

On board the *Slavija*, built to carry 800 passengers, women and children wept as they said goodbye to husbands and fathers who were forced to remain behind.

The Croatian authorities, who have ordered all able-bodied men to remain in the besieged city, had decreed that no males aged between 16 and 60 could leave the town.

Croatian guardsmen combed the vessel ejecting all those who did not have the sought-after exemption papers to leave the port amid scenes of tears and outrage.

Tories aim to avoid clash

Continued from page 1

holds out the possibility of eventual British participation in a European single currency. Ministers had to decide whether to do that or to send John Major to Maastricht with the maximum number of Tory votes supporting his endeavours, making it harder for those who had backed him to remove support after any deal in Maastricht.

Norman Tebbit has warned the government not to corner

him and those who think like him and ministers were making clear last night that there would be no attempt to do so.

While differences on the EC are acknowledged in cabinet, there is agreement on the basic approach to Maastricht. Colleagues say that the more Euro-sceptical ministers, such as Peter Lilley, Norman Lamont and Michael Howard, are satisfied that negotiations on EMU have not conceded whether or when Britain will

join a single currency and feel that nothing of substance has been given away in ceding some extra powers to the European Parliament, subject to an overall final deal.

The prime minister, continued yesterday to develop his more enthusiastically pro-European line, saying the EC was "often an opportunity, not a risk".

German threat, page 11
Leading article, page 19

Political sketch

Ted sinks into a fit of the blues

WHEN Ted Heath wears his blue socks it is usually a bad sign. So it proved yesterday. World statesmen are out of vogue, and nationalism is back with a vengeance.

In the half-light of a wintry dawn, did our distinguished ex-premier know, as he rifled the sock-drawer for that special cornflower shade, that the afternoon was to bring a retreat on all fronts?

Applying a dab of *Eau de Cologne* (souvenir from a bilateral with Willy Brandt in Bonn), smoothing his snow-white hair and opening the *Louis Quatorze* wardrobe for his rack of Italian silk ties, did the man who took us into Europe guess that as John Major edged cautiously back from closer union, so MPs would begin edging back even from the Union these islands have?

As the prime minister carefully reserved Britain's options as to the big European club, our own very British little club was in parliamentary disarray. Yesterday brought outbursts of Welsh, Scottish, even English nationalism.

Tony Marlow led the charge. Northampton, I guess, is further than Bonnie Prince Charlie ever got; and the Conservative member for Northampton North had sat with growing irritation as Scots and Welsh MPs sniped at the prime minister in their unusual accents, calling for varieties of "devolution" for their home territories.

Jim Sillars (SNP, Glasgow, Govan) was poised to demand Scotland's independence from "the prime minister of England and his lackey in St. Andrew's House" (he meant Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary). There were, Sillars claimed, "barely of moral authority" north of the border. Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon) had already called, on behalf of "the people of Wales", for an "extension of democracy" west of Offa's Dyke.

For the blond and bull-necked Antony Marlow it was all too much. He shot to his feet and well-nigh exploded. Such was Mr Marlow's passion that his question lost in coherence what it gained in rage, but from among the flying verbal shrapnel I was able to catch the word "crackpot" and the phrase "Scottish MPs dabbling in English affairs, before the whole paragraph flew into a barrage of 'hoorays' and 'hear-hears' from English MPs on all sides. Some of the cheer-

ing was ironical, but (interestingly) some of it was plainly not. The Welsh prime-minister-in-waiting reflecting perhaps on his Scottish shadow chancellor, his Welsh shadow defence minister, Scottish shadow industry minister, Welsh shadow overseas development minister, Scottish shadow health minister, and Welsh shadow leader of the Upper House - smiled ruefully. Mr Heath, his blue socks plainly showing, glared into the middle distance.

The ex-premier's glare was even colder when the inappropriately-surnamed Douglas French (C, Gloucester) told his PM that a poll in *The Guardian* showed that voters were increasingly sceptical about a single currency. Mr Heath winced when Major replied that he had noted this poll with some interest. And, when John as to the big European club, our own very British little club was in parliamentary disarray. Yesterday brought outbursts of Welsh, Scottish, even English nationalism.

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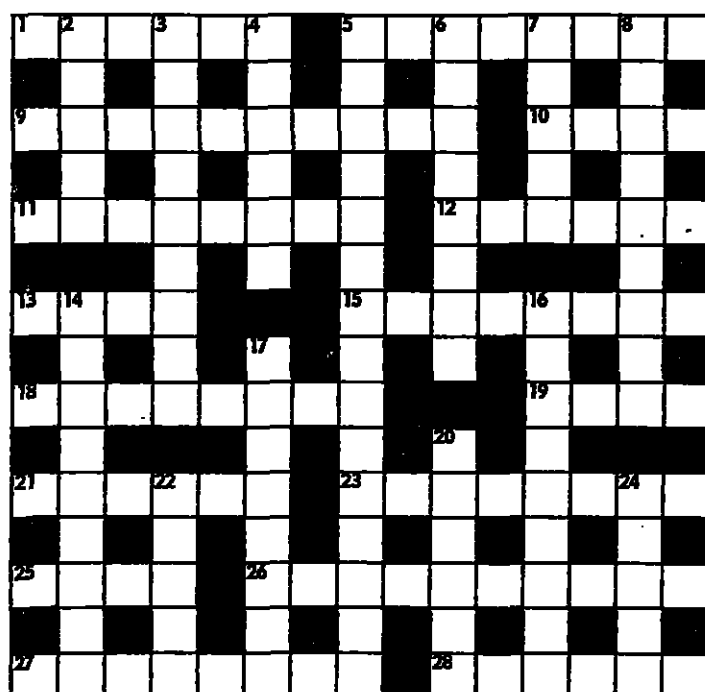
The mood lightened as the leader of the House, John MacGregor, outlined next week's business. His Labour shadow, Jack Cunningham, was in a mood for fun.

"Shameful" behaviour, "Norman Tebbit on a table" and "a roomful of imbeciles" were just a few of the snapshots of Tory behaviour drawn by a playful Dr Cunningham to parliament's attention yesterday afternoon. He was talking about reports of mayhem in the corridors as Tories elected a new chairman of their European committee on Wednesday. Would Mr MacGregor arrange for an urgent debate about this breakdown of internal democracy in the governing party?

Needless to say, Mr MacGregor would not.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,764



- ACROSS**
- 1 Avoid putting break into talk (4,2)
 - 5 Dish almost half of Chinese women cooked? (4,4)
 - 9 Fatherless infant's small but generous contribution (6,4)
 - 10 Bad back, as it happens (4)
 - 11 An Austrian student joining the French and English (8)
 - 12 Cut affected region (6)
 - 13 Nothing shut up can be this (4)
 - 15 Don's main point of entry is this port (8)
 - 18 Minor novelist initially very poor (8)
 - 19 Flower removed from bed (4)
 - 21 Sailor's two evils (6)
 - 23 Yield too much on account of speculator (8)

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,763

ACROSS
1. AVOID
5. DISH
9. FATHERLESS
10. BAD
11. AUSTRIAN
12. CUT
13. NOTHING
15. DON
18. MINOR
19. FLOWER
21. SAILOR
23. YIELD

DOWN
2. ESQU
3. MAKE
4. POINTS
6. SHORT
7. PEOPLE
8. CITY
14. EXPLOIT
16. RIVER
17. HE
20. FINE
22. CAUSE
24. NAVY

WORD WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
- HIMBO**
a. A male bimbo
b. A missionary hymn book in pidgin
c. The third lumbar vertebra
- DIGLADIATE**
a. To fight with swords
b. Bifurcate
c. To prowl and prowl around
- CALLIOLOGY**
a. The study of aesthetics
b. Using scatological language
c. The science of birds' nests
- SQUETEAGUE**
a. A spiky-finned fish
b. A sponge mop
c. Dead man's hole at real tennis

Answers on page 22

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0858 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon.	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Midlands & Sh. Chas. & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs.	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbershire	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Chwyd	715
N. W. England	716
W. & S. Yorks & Dalles	717
N. E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S. W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin. S. Fife, Lothian & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E. Highlands	724
N. W. Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Many inland areas will see frost at first, and a few mist or fog patches are also likely. Showers over England and Wales will mostly be confined to coastal areas, although over north Wales and northwest England a few are likely to run inland. Over northern Scotland it will remain cloudy with some showers. During the evening a band of showers will spread into southwest England and Wales. Outlook: rain

APPROXIMATE

MIDDAY: 1-10th, 11-15th, 16-20th, 21-25th, 26-30th, 31st

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2
Alps	6-11	1-2	1-2	1-2

* Omotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate
Australia	21.40
Austria	21.40
Belgium	21.40
Canada	21.40
Denmark	21.40
Finland	21.40
France	21.40
Germany	21.40
Greece	21.40
Hong Kong	21.40
Italy	21.40
Japan	21.40
Netherlands	21.40
Norway	21.40
Portugal	21.40
Spain	21.40
Sweden	21.40
Switzerland	21.40
USA	21.40
USSR	21.40
Turkey	21.40
Yugoslavia	21.40

Yatesday: Temp max 8 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F), min 6 pm to 8 am, 12C (54F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2.1 in.

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GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 8 pm, 8C (46F), min 6 pm to 8 am, 12C (54F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.2 in.

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Powell Duffryn slides to £6.9m

Pre-tax profits at Powell Duffryn, the transport and engineering group, fell by 43 per cent to £6.9 million (£12.1 million) in the six months to end-September, though it anticipates healthier order books by next spring.

Bill Andrews, chief executive, said in some parts of the group order books were "zero", and that it had cut its world-wide workforce by 500 and further redundancies were planned. Trading profits within the engineering division fell from £8.35 million to £4.86 million, while the railway business ran up trading losses of £1.9 million, against break-even previously.

David Hubbard, chairman, confirmed he will submit a bid by the November 29 cut-off date for the port of Tees & Hartlepool, Britain's second-busiest cargo port, but declined to elaborate on what he described as a competitive situation. "We would be disappointed if our bid does not win, but there are other opportunities," PD said.

The group is maintaining the interim dividend at 6.6p a share. The shares rose 5p to 295p.

Refinancing at Hanson

Hanson, the British conglomerate, has completed the refinancing of more than \$7 billion of new and existing bank debt.

In Britain, the £3.1 billion financing proposal, led by National Westminster, Barclays and Credit Suisse, provided £400 million for the acquisition of Besser and £2.7 billion to extend existing arrangements until November 1992, of which £1.8 billion would then continue to be available until November 1995.

In America, Hanson Industries' seven-year financing requirement, has been reduced from the originally planned \$4 billion to \$3.2 billion. Bankers said the company did not require as much new money as planned. About \$1.8 billion of the facility is to refinance the 1990 purchase of Peabody Holding, the American coal mining group. In America, Chemical Bank is the local co-ordinator of the loan.

Cater ahead

Cater Allen, the discount house, says it made a good profit in the half year to end-October, slightly larger than in the equivalent period last year, thanks to an improved result from money markets and securities trading. Stock lending and offshore activities were a little down and financial futures, broking and the Lloyd's businesses again made no relevant contribution during the first half and the latter are still forecast to be flat for the year. The interim dividend is unchanged.

Rexmore rises

Rexmore, the textile converter, reports a rise in interim profits from £24,000 to £639,000. Earnings per share rose from 2.01p to 2.69p and the interim dividend is held at 0.7p a share.

Bank up 44%

Bank of Ireland raised after-tax profits by 44 per cent to £23.4 million in the six months to the end of September. The dividend is maintained at 3.33 Irish pence, out of earnings up by 51 per cent to 5.3p. Howard Kilroy, the Governor of the Bank of Ireland, said that the performance in Ireland was strong.

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Cunard Hotels

Falling exports compound car industry gloom

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

EXPORT sales are no longer saving the car industry from a rapid downturn in production, providing further worrying evidence that Britain's biggest manufacturing industry faces a long haul out of recession.

Output of cars in the first ten months of the year is now running 1.9 per cent below the same period of last year, the first time that output has fallen below last year's total.

The figures had been buoyed by an astonishing exports performance that offset the huge downturn experienced in the domestic market. Sales of new cars in the United Kingdom have fallen 21.6 per cent this year and show no signs of recovering before the spring of next year.

The government pinned its faith in the industry being able to continue its exports surge, up 70 per cent so far this year.

at 502,638 cars, long enough to offset any lack of demand at home.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, based his March Budget strategy of increasing taxes on company cars on the fact that factories would be occupied fulfilling export orders.

However, warnings given by car manufacturers that the boom in overseas sales, driven mainly by the reunification of Germany, could not go on, are now being realised. Production for export last month at 50,282 cars was down 11.3 per cent on October 1990.

The result was that total output, at 96,798 cars, showed a drop of 27.41 per cent on the 133,356 cars made in October 1990, according to figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The SMMT said last night: "Our predictions were that exports could not go on growing at the amazing rate that they were. The reality of a near-22 per cent drop in the home market is now starting to hurt the industry very badly."

Ford, which has lost sales of more than 100,000 cars this year, has been forced to implement short-time working for 5,000 workers at Halewood on Merseyside since the summer, while Rolls-Royce and Jaguar have been forced to seek large-scale redundancies. Rover will have shed nearly 7,000 jobs by the end of the year through a programme of voluntary redundancies and by natural wastage.

All three of the nation's big car makers, Ford, Vauxhall and Rover, say they have only been able to maintain full production by increasing exports. Against the background of the decrease in October output, workers at Vauxhall's Luton plant in Bedfordshire achieved production records in October.

The company says that such successes will be short-lived, however, without a substantial revival in the new car market in the United Kingdom. Such an improvement could remain out of reach for some time as HPI, one of Britain's biggest credit information companies, gave a warning yesterday that the recession was now starting to affect the sales of second-hand vehicles as well as new cars.

There was a 3.8 per cent drop in credit deals on used cars registered with HPI in October. Credit on new cars has fallen well behind last year, with 792,478 finance agreements registered in the first ten months compared with 981,903 in the same period of last year.

Power distributors create joint retailing venture

By MARTIN WALLER

THE country's two biggest electricity distributors, Southern and Eastern, have pooled their resources to create a joint venture in retailing, a chain of 230 shops ranging from the south coast to the North Sea.

So far, just one, a superstore in Guildford, Surrey, opened by Southern, is outside the two companies' franchise area for electricity supplies, but two more are planned by Southern in Bristol and Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, in the South Western and East Midlands distributors' areas respectively.

Southern and Eastern have almost 25 per cent of the market in such white goods as fridges, freezers and washing machines in their respective areas, but both the existing operations are currently only breaking even and are not seen as earning an appropriate return on the capital employed.

Although the companies stress that electricity distribution and supply will continue to be their core businesses, the venture will be disappointing news for the other big electrical appliance retailers. They have long feared the emergence of a powerful force from among the electricity distributors, whose strong retail portfolio has previously not been managed on a competitive basis.

Walter Waring, managing director of Eastern, said that sales from the new venture, which should reach a total of more than £170 million a year, will account for 25 per cent of the total retail revenue of the 12 regional electricity distributors privatised at the end of last year.

Henry Casley, managing director of Southern, said the merger would have the necessary critical mass to succeed.



Casley: retailing power

L&M omits interim again

By MATTHEW BOND

LONDON & Metropolitan, the property developer rescued by its bankers in February, has reported continuing losses and passed its interim dividend for the second year running.

L&M made a pre-tax loss of £15 million in the first half of this year, but these losses are modest compared with what has gone before.

The comparable losses for the first half of last year were £88 million, a figure that prompted the departure of

David Lewis, L&M's founder and chief executive. Only five months ago, L&M reported a full-year loss of £100 million as property provisions rose to £85 million.

The latest figures show that L&M is continuing to be hit by falling property prices, although the further provisions the company has felt it necessary to make have been included within the £10.5 million operating loss.

John Aiton, the finance director, said that provisions

accounted for about a third of the loss. The continuing losses mean that the company's negative net worth has increased since February's reconstruction.

Christopher Harris, who succeeded Norman Ireland as chairman at the beginning of October, still believes, however, that the reconstruction can and will succeed.

He said: "We have a long-term strategy and that long-term strategy still shows that we can pay back that deficit."

Midway crashes in US air chaos

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE American airline industry, savaged by the recession and airfare wars, faced further chaos yesterday after the collapse of Midway Airlines.

Midway, the 12th largest American carrier, ceased flying at midnight on Wednesday after Northwest Airlines dropped its \$174 million rescue bid for the bankrupt operator. Northwest pulled out alleging that Midway overstated operating profits by \$35 million in information that was "substantially inaccurate and seriously in error".

Midway strongly denied the allegation and had been considering legal action. David Hinson, Midway's chairman, said he was "shocked and disappointed" by Northwest's decision to scrap the deal. The airline said Northwest's decision indicates it has financial problems of its own.

Midway had tried to open discussions with Southwest Airlines but had already warned its 4,300 staff that, if another suitor could not be found, it would go out of business in two months. Hours later, it stopped flying. It was not known how many passengers were stranded with tickets.

Analysts say the collapse of Northwest's bid for Midway is a blow to



Sir Colin: seeks allies and partners

the company's strategy of trying to consolidate itself as America's fourth largest airline, and is the latest in a line of attempted deals which have come to nothing.

Northwest, which was taken private in a \$3.6 billion management buyout in 1989 which left it with \$3 billion worth of debts, has also failed to buy the east

coast commuter air shuttle from the Trump Organisation.

There are also serious doubts over Northwest's ambitions to combine with the bankrupt Continental Airlines and then forge links with British Airways through KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, which holds a 10 per cent stake in Northwest.

British Airways, which reported better than expected second quarter profits this week, has confirmed it is discussing closer co-operation with KLM, but refuses to comment on the Northwest link.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA chief executive and deputy chairman, refused to be specific about the deals when briefing analysts in New York yesterday, but said: "We want to participate fully in the globalisation of the industry. We don't believe this can be done organically, but must be done by the establishment of alliances or partnerships to cover other markets in the world."

US Airlines, facing another year of losses, embarked on a further vicious round of price cutting this week. TWA, whose losses tripled in the last quarter, has slashed business class fares across the Atlantic in half, to a return fare of \$1,100.



Informative accounting: Patrick Rich, chief executive of BOC, right, and Ian Clubb, finance director

New look accounts for BOC

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE BOC Group, in a move that other British companies are expected to follow, has adopted UK Accounting Standards Board and US Financial Accounting Standards Board proposals that involve BOC making a £25 million charge against profits above the line in presenting its results for the year ended September 30.

Patrick Rich, chief executive, says the new accounting proposals remove the confusion of treatment of unusual items that in the past were treated in a different manner, and should make BOC accounts more informative.

Further accounting proposals will be implemented in BOC's annual report, due for publication on December 12.

The £25 million charge is made up of £19.6 million for the cost of reorganisation of the Glasrock healthcare business in America, and £5.4 million covering the loss of disposal of businesses.

BOC has also adopted on its balance sheet proposed accounting changes concerning American post-retirement medical costs.

After the charges, BOC showed a pre-tax profit of £310.1 million for the year to end-September, compared with £350.2 million previously. Pre-tax profit before the above-the-line non-recurring charges was £335.1 million.

"This is a reasonable result, achieved in a much tougher economic environment than most had anticipated," Mr Rich said.

BOC yesterday gave its traditional early alert about the dividend it plans to pay, saying it intended paying 22p a share (20.4p) in two equal instalments for the 1992 financial year.

Mr Rich becomes chairman of BOC group in January and remains as chief executive when the incumbent chairman, Richard Giordano, retires. Mr Giordano will continue as a non-executive director of BOC.

Tempus, page 28

Wellcome shares soar on surprise £200m cash pile

By MARTIN BARROW

WELLCOME, the pharmaceuticals group, has surprised analysts by disclosing net cash of almost £200 million at its last year-end.

The company ruled out a merger with ICI's pharmaceuticals business and signalled its willingness to expand through acquisition to consolidate its independence. Wellcome shares, which 12 months ago languished at just 367p, surged 52p to 853p yesterday after the company reported higher than expected profits and rewarded its shareholders with a near-29

per cent increase in the final dividend.

The market also showed delight with Wellcome's new-found financial strength, chiefly the product of tight cost controls. Net cash of £198 million compared with expectations of between £25 million and £30 million and with a reported £24 million at the interim stage.

Pre-tax profits rose from £315.1 million to £402.9 million in the year to the end of August, helped by an increase in operating margins of 3.4 percentage points to 24.6 per

cent. Earnings were 22.7p a share, against 29.3p.

Sales of Zovirax, its drug for the treatment of herpes infections rose 26 per cent, while those of Retrovir, the anti-Aids drug, gained 4 per cent. The company now has approval to sell Lamictal, the anti-epileptic drug, in Britain.

John Robb, chief executive, said Wellcome would consider an acquisition to expand its operations, but ruled out a merger with ICI's pharmaceuticals business.

Tempus, page 28

Shell income slumps by 48%

By MARTIN BARROW

ROYAL Dutch/Shell reported a 48 per cent fall in third quarter net income in the absence of the large stock gains that boosted comparable figures in 1990, when oil prices surged after the invasion of Kuwait.

In the three months to the end of September net income fell to £569 million from £1.09 billion, which included inventory gains of £614 million.

In the first nine months of 1991 the group earned net income of £1.95 billion, compared with £2.47 billion. On a

replacement cost basis, which strips out gains and losses on stockholdings, Shell earned £523 million in the third quarter, up 9 per cent from £480 million, and £2.4 billion for the first nine months, compared with £2.05 billion.

The results were achieved against a background of steady oil prices, when North Sea crudes traded within a range of \$18 per barrel and \$21 — a sharp contrast to the volatile oil markets that followed the invasion of Kuwait, when oil prices briefly surged to \$40.

Cash flow from operating activities increased from £4.7 billion to £5.2 billion as working capital required to finance inventories fell substantially.

Earnings from oil exploration and production declined, with the effects of lower oil prices only partially offset by increased production.

There was a 25 per cent income reduction to £316 million in the third quarter and a 10 per cent reduction to £1.05 billion for the first nine months.

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COMMENT

Boots survives its new cycle

Breaking up ICI looked a good idea to Lord Hanson's camp not so long ago, mainly because its pharmaceutical division, which provided as much as 40 per cent of profits in a recession, should command a much higher valuation than a widespread chemicals group could aspire to. Such pressure has not been applied so openly to Boots, whose pharmaceutical division, famous for ibuprofen but hoping for great things from the Manoplax heart drug, accounts for about 30 per cent of its profits. Admittedly, a significant proportion of these profits come from over-the-counter medicines, where Boots is probably the biggest producer in Britain, and from contract manufacture of anything from pills to shampoo. Even so, the logic of Boots' structure lies mainly in its history, though Sir James Blyth, its combative chief executive, maintains that the group has no interest in taking part in the current bouts of restructuring in either the pharmaceutical or medicines businesses.

The pressure has not been on Boots, perhaps, because its main Boots the chemist retail operations have shown the same character of steady growth as pharmaceuticals, though at a lower pace. Boots even earns an offsetting benefit from recession, which makes more people feel ill and buy medicines. This accidental financial match was disrupted when the group spent manically on buying or building a series of other retail chains from bicycles to DIY that have proved as cyclical as any bulk chemicals business. In the summer half, the non-Boots retail division made a loss of £600,000 on sales of £300 million, more than a quarter of the turnover of Boots the chemist, which made a pre-interest profit of £97 million.

Unlike many companies, however, Boots admitted it had made an awful mistake, at least in terms of the prices it paid in the boom. Management has almost been forgiven and the stock market is focussing back on Boots' strengths, as mistakes are dealt with by cost-cutting, retrenchment and a DIY joint venture. Profits for the full year should rise above £370 million given a decent Christmas, leaving its buoyant shares trading at about 17 times earnings. With recovery to come and potentially big profits from Manoplax just over the horizon, shareholders may not worry about the logic of Boots, just as Lord Hanson has forgotten any masterplan for ICI.

Bright old lady

With the Bank of England now camping with the bulls, along with the Treasury and the Department of Employment, the government's vision of an imminent recovery seems to be gaining credibility by the day. Why then, has the pound sunk back to the bottom of the ERM league and why does the stock market find it so hard to sustain a rally? The statisticians and economic forecasters may simply be wrong but nobody can deny the statistical significance of such harbingers of recovery as the confidence surveys on which the Bank of England's economists based yesterday's cheerful assessments. Even Wednesday's disappointing figures on manufacturing were consistent with a fourth quarter recovery. As the Bank officials noted, before a series starts rising, it has to flatten out.

Past statistical relationships can never be guaranteed to hold in the future. The gloom in the housing market and the banking sector may continue to infect consumer behaviour, in which case the forecasts of recovery will break down. This seems to be happening in America. In Britain, however, there is a more predictable danger for the financial markets. The recovery may happen, but it may be too weak and too late to save the government's bacon. In the months ahead, the biggest cloud over the financial markets is likely to be labelled "politics" not "economics".

Fresh policy for Royal after disaster on the home front

Of all the composite insurers, Royal has paid the highest price for the boom in house values, says Jonathan Prynn

For the sheer variety of their methods of losing large amounts of money, Britain's composite insurers take some beating. They range from the natural elements — with wind, drought and snow taking turns in the last two years — through the social problems of theft and arson brought on by recession, to the ill-considered diversification into estate agency.

Like all the best performers, however, they are saving the best until last. The scale of the losses on domestic mortgage indemnity (DMI) business, which is becoming painfully clear, looks like trumping all that has gone before it. In simple terms, the composite general and life insurance groups have been left to pick up most of the tab for the great British property binge of the Eighties.

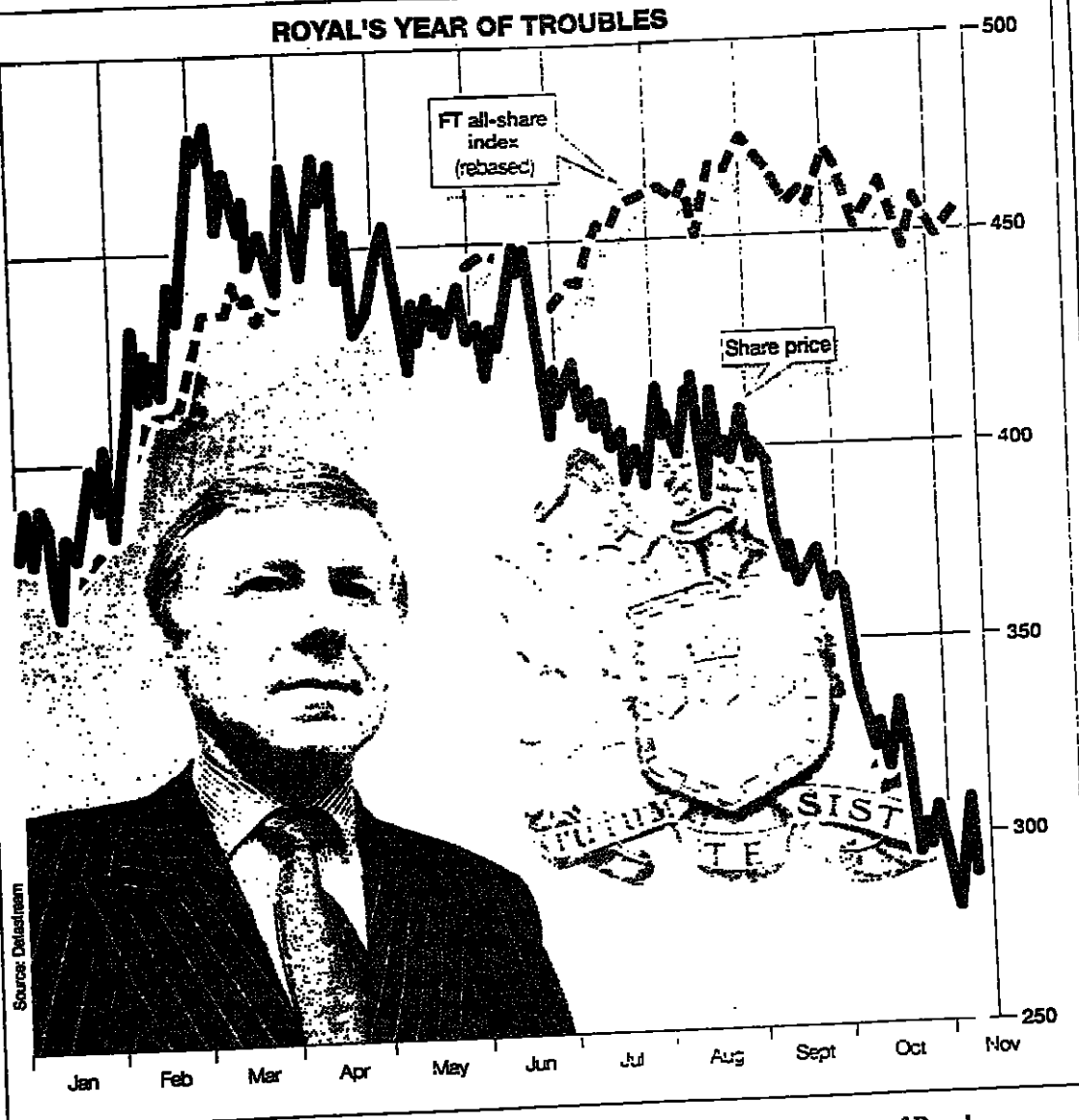
Yesterday's three-quarter results from Royal Insurance provided detail of the DMI disaster. Nine-month pre-tax losses grew from £91 million to £214 million, largely as a result of a £110 million increase in reserves to take account of current and future expected losses on this line of business. Total reserves against DMI losses are £233 million, against Royal's estimates of claims exposure of £400 million.

Repossessiones are estimated to reach up to 90,000 this year, while the values of the houses and flats to be sold by lenders are in many cases well below the insured sums paid for them. Barring a market recovery next year, little improvement is expected, and the total combined losses for lenders and insurers could reach £4 billion.

At least in the case of Royal, DMI was not a particularly profitable line of business. Since 1983, Royal has made an underwriting profit in DMI in only one year. That was 1989, the year the roof fell in on the British property market. As Royal admitted yesterday, it could be three years before the effects of current premium rate increases and other measures outweigh the residual claims feeding through from repossessiones.

Richard Gamble, Royal's new chief operating officer, yesterday had the unenviable task of explaining what actions the group has taken in response to the losses. Among the more obvious measures, average rate increases of 40 per cent have been levied on new DMI business, with rises of up to 55 per cent for cover on riskier loans.

Mr Gamble estimates that 85 per cent of all mortgages covered will face rate rises. Royal has also improved its links with six main



Trying to shake off the nightmare: Richard Gamble, chief operating officer of Royal

lenders, which account for 70 per cent of its DMI business, to improve the flow of information about the problem, including establishing a central repossession register. Along with new credit controls on mortgage applicants, Mr Gamble believes the measures add up to "turning the clock back ten years".

On another front, Royal, with other composites, has stepped up its lobbying of government to change the way in which the social security department makes payments to those unemployed with mortgages to cover their interest payments. Currently, the payments are paid directly to the claimant: up to 75 per cent of those funds never reach the lender, says Mr Gamble.

To be fair to Royal, only one of the other composites, Commercial Union, which reduced its exposure to DMI in the mid-Eighties, foresaw the problem. If there is a criticism, it is that Royal, with about 20 per cent of the DMI market, has left it until now to beef up its reserves. Eagle Star and Legal & General, with much smaller DMI business, addressed the problem before it reached its peak.

Throughout the past two years, Royal has seen its solvency margin suffer more from its competitors.

The margin has fallen to 35 per cent, against the 45.5 per cent — nearer the average — reported on Tuesday by General Accident. Royal is, therefore, likely to become the first of the composites to blink in the sector's war of nerves over dividends. Yesterday, however, the board said nothing on its intentions towards the final payout.

If the dividend bullet is bitten — some analysts forecast it will be halved — the other composites can be expected to follow, ending the trend of paying dividends: wholly out of reserves. The combined pre-tax losses of the five leading composites will reach £900 million this year, making it by far the worst year for the sector. Total losses last year were £645 million. Next year should see some improvement, though another year of deficit is expected, with Royal incurring perhaps another £30 million of losses and GA maybe twice that amount.

Despite the obvious short-term causes of the losses, the problems of the sector cannot be explained away by a run of bad luck. According to Chris Pountain, insurance analyst at Morgan Stanley, the meteorological and property difficulties, have merely exacerbated underlying problems that have still to be fully

addressed. Excessive costs and over-capacity created a disaster waiting to happen by the late Eighties. The losses could not have come at a worse time: the eve of 1992, when the large continental insurers can be expected to increase their attacks on the British market.

Royal appears to have taken that threat on board. This week, it announced talks about closer links with AMB of Germany and Fondiaria of Italy, which would result in a capital injection of up to £250 million. Other composites, apart from Sun Alliance, the biggest and strongest, can be expected to follow.

The larger continental players have many a competitive advantage. Generous tax treatment of reserves allows them to ride out the insurance cycle roller-coaster, while lower shareholder expectation of dividend payouts enables them to take a far longer term view of their markets. The British companies, meanwhile, can do little except lobby the Inland Revenue for a level fiscal playing field and hope that premium rate increases do not drive away too much business. They will also hope against hope that wind, hail, frost and snow stay away from Britain this winter.

ROSS TIEMAN

Inventing a clever way to sell inventions

Price Waterhouse corporate finance has proved remarkably innovative in the sale of government assets, but never before has it endeavoured to sell a pig in a poke.

Few companies are so difficult to value as British Technology Group, the technology transfer organisation that Price Waterhouse begins marketing today. Established in 1948, BTG has, in various guises, pursued its government-imposed task of developing new ideas from British universities and companies for commercial exploitation with spectacular success.

Key patents ranging from hovercraft to weedkillers last year provided BTG with revenues of £30.7 million. Royalties from BTG patents provided British universities and academics with income of more than £14 million.

The unusual nature of BTG, and its success, have made the privatisation of the business especially controversial. Labour leaders are so concerned at the exploitation of British innovations that they have promised to set up a replacement state-owned body if they win power at the general election.

A Labour victory before the sale is completed would almost certainly cause the privatisation to be abandoned. Under the timetable unveiled yesterday, completion of the sale could fall either side of an April election.

The claim that privatisation will harm the technology transfer process is by no means proven. BTG's management has supported the sale proposals, although that enthusiasm is not apparently shared by all staff.

The government, and its advisers, have gone to unusual lengths to address concerns that BTG's independent role be safeguarded.

BTG is to be sold through a unique tender offer. Bidders, assisted if necessary by Price Waterhouse, will be encouraged to form one or more consortia to bid.

Only in exceptional circumstances will any shareholder be allowed more than 15 per cent of the equity. The government will retain a golden share, giving it power to block a takeover, while the committee of vice-chancellors and principals will have a board seat and, very probably, an equity stake.

The successful consortium is likely to be the one able to get both the committee and BTG's management on board. This, and the restrictions on ownership, adds to the difficulty of forecasting proceeds from the sale.

But the greatest problem is that nobody can tell what BTG's portfolio of 1,700 innovations is worth. In an effort to ensure the taxpayer is not sold short, Price Waterhouse is inviting bidders to offer terms that include a significant element of deferred consideration. Only by seeking "royalties" for the government, as well as the inventor, can Price Waterhouse be sure of achieving a fair price for the sale.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Banking on Banks

BRIAN Banks, the fund manager with one of the best tipster records in the City, is once again doing his own thing. Banks, aged 53, and about to become a grandfather, has bought Guildhall Investment Management out of LIT Holdings. He is about to merge it with Gracechurch Investments, a fund management group run by his long-time friend Mike Holland, and has just had his agreement to manage funds for the St David's Investment Trust renewed, with funds there about to be increased from £9 million to £22.5 million. "It means that between us we will now have £140 million under management, which is a nice way to start," says a delighted Banks. Those with long memories will recall that Banks was once the investment director and then managing director of Slater Walker under Jim Slater. Sir James Goldsmith and, finally, Lord Rippin. Although his view of the market is "neutral" in the short term, he believes that there is good value to be had in certain "good quality" stocks on a medium-term basis of one to two years. Pressed to disclose a few tips he reluctantly recommends P&O — "which, with a yield of 8 per cent, and a well-managed company, is a snip" — and Great Portland Estates.

Looking sharp

FLEDGLING stockbrokers hoping to make it big could do worse than join the Birmingham offices of Albert E Sharp, the broker. Four salesmen and analysts out of a team of 20



there in total amazement," says Blanchard. "Even the landlord bought everyone a round of drinks." Luckily, they emerged unscathed.

QUOTE of the year. Retired US General Norman Schwarzkopf, said: "Seven months ago, I could give a single command and 541,000 people would immediately obey it. Today I can't get a plumber to come to my house."

30 not out

FOR John Owen, head of American institutional equity sales at Merrill Lynch, the highlight of his 30-year career with the firm — an anniversary he is celebrating this week — came yesterday when John Phelan, former chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, parted him on the back. Phelan, a non-executive director of Merrill, and on a whistle-stop tour, made a point of stopping by to congratulate him. "He's been a folk hero of mine since the 1987 crash, when there was enormous pressure on him to close the market," says Owen, aged 57. Phelan, of course, stayed calm and kept the market open. Communication between the British investment community and its American counterpart has not, however, always been so straightforward. Owen, whose Arctic adventurer son Robert, is an institutional salesman with the Japanese house Wako International, recalls the difficulties he had to endure in the early Sixties. "We used to have to sign a document every time we wanted to telephone America and prices were only updated every 30 minutes."

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

UK hit by trade mark policy

From Dr P. A. Leonard

Sir, This government has long asserted its commitment to support British industry and innovation in the manufacturing sector. Yet Britain's most successful and arguably most innovative manufacturing industry, the chemicals industry, remains disadvantaged by the government's stance on two important legislative proposals.

The first is the reform of UK trade mark law, outlined last year in an excellent white paper (CM 1203). Seldom has such a document received such universal acceptance from industry as a whole, which regards the proposed reforms as long overdue.

The Government, however, cannot find the time to enact the legislation in this parliamentary session, undermining industry's efforts to comply with the EC directive for harmonisation of trade mark law and preventing the UK from ratifying the Madrid Protocol for the international

registration of marks. The second concerns the government's reluctance to adopt the EC proposals for supplementary patent protection for pharmaceuticals. This legislation, heartily welcomed by other member states, redresses a competitive advantage held by the USA and Japan, who have enjoyed such protection for some time. By adopting the full EC proposals, this government would be taking an opportunity to encourage and support one of this country's few truly world-class industry sectors.

To be effective, the government's commitment to support innovation must include practical measures such as these, or as Mike Teague correct in his statement after the rugby world cup: "Nobody likes a winner". DR. P. A. LEONARD, Executive, Science & Technology, Chemical Industries Association, Kings Buildings, Smith Square, SW1.

Registering containers and packaging

From Mr. T. J. Bamford

Sir, Your article (Business News, November 11) highlighting the plight of the long overdue reform of UK trade marks law was a valiant effort to keep the matter in the public eye but is perhaps misleading as to the registrability of three-dimensional trade marks.

It has always been possible to register, in principle, three-dimensional marks under the present Trade Marks Act 1938 (photographs being used simply as a representation of the 3-D registered mark). However, among the reforms being proposed under the White

Paper, is a provision for the registration of distinctive containers or packaging per se, such as the Coca-Cola bottle, which are at present unregistrable because they do not qualify as "trade marks", no matter how distinctive.

Nonetheless, the possibility of protection of unregistered trade marks under the law of "passing off" should not be lost sight of, the importance of which was vividly illustrated by the recent "Jif" lemon case. Yours faithfully, T. J. BAMFORD, Jacques & Lewis, 2 South Square, Gray's Inn, WC1.

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AND ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

Consortium to buy rest of Sun Life

UAP, France's largest insurer, and Liberty Life of South Africa confirmed yesterday that they will bid £11.60 for each of the outstanding shares in Sun Life on Monday.

The bid was inevitable after UAP and Liberty pooled their holdings in September in a jointly owned investment vehicle, Rockleigh Corporation, which owns about 60 per cent of Sun Life.

The bid values Sun Life at about £800 million, but it is expected that the take-up will be small and that Sun Life will retain its London Stock Exchange quotation.

The bid price equals the price that Rockleigh paid for a 4.5 per cent stake previously held by Sun Alliance. The bid was delayed by monopolies and mergers considerations, but after the European Commission's clearance of the bid on Wednesday, this obstacle has been removed.

Links between UAP and Liberty Life have improved after some difficulties a few years ago.

Euromoney up

Euromoney Publications' pre-tax profits rose from £8.8 million to £10.3 million in the year to end-September, despite the worldwide slump in financial advertising and the Gulf war. The final dividend is hoisted from 18.5p to 22.5p.

Plaxton moves

David Matthews, the chairman of Plaxton Group, has resigned from the board and is succeeded as non-executive chairman by Michael Doherty. Robert Wood, group managing director, becomes chief executive.

Facility sold

Electrocomponents is selling its distribution facility at Brackmills, Northampton, to GE-Thorn Lamps, a subsidiary of General Electric of America, for £9.54 million.

AWA turnover

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper-maker, said turnover in the third quarter of this year reached £596.5 million.

Tokyo cuts rate amid concern at slow growth

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

YASUSHI Mieno, the governor of the Bank of Japan, yesterday announced a long-awaited cut in the nation's benchmark interest rate.

The official discount rate, which the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks, was reduced by half a percentage point to 5 per cent, the second decline since July 1 when the Bank of Japan also cut the discount rate by half a point, loosening its hold on credit for the first time in two years.

Yesterday's cut follows three months of declines in short-term interest rates and is being interpreted as a sign of government concern at the country's rapidly slowing economic growth. Mr Mieno, who has long voiced optimism about the economy, recently conceded that business confidence is weakening.

In a press conference yesterday, Mr Mieno said that he hoped domestic demand-led economic growth in Japan will sustain its momentum. The cut was welcomed by Tsutomu Hata, the new finance minister.

Mr Hata said: "This will contribute to continued growth of an economy that is



Mieno: not so optimistic

spurred by domestic demand and free from inflationary pressures," adding that it will have a positive effect on "corporate psychology".

Although the government is said to be aiming for a gross national product growth of 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1992 to generate sufficient revenues for public works and private investment, private sector economists, however, are predicting real GNP growth to fall below 3 per cent during the period, and some are anticipating a further discount rate cut early next year.

Paul Summerville, senior economist for Jardine Fleming Securities in Tokyo, said: "If consumer price inflation continues to moderate, the yen stays stable to strong against the dollar and the economy continues to weaken into next year, the Bank of Japan will have further space to ease again to 4.5 per cent early next year."

The yen's buoyancy will handicap the government in its task of slowing Japan's rapidly growing trade surplus and easing trade friction, particularly with America and the European Community.

According to figures released this week, Japan's overall trade surplus soared more than 127 per cent in the year to October to £7.3 billion.

The bilateral surplus with America expanded in October 4.7 per cent to \$3.9 billion. The surplus with the EC grew 45.6 per cent to \$2.6 billion, and with Asia 48.8 per cent to \$2.6 billion.

With America's economic recovery still shaky and some EC economies still showing weakness, Japan's trading partners are becoming particularly sensitive to bad news on the trade front and have been openly exhorting Tokyo to exert more control.

Staveley maintains payout despite fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

PRE-tax profits at Staveley Industries, the British Salt to measurement equipment group, declined 18 per cent to £9 million on sales down 9.5 per cent to £147 million in the half to October 5.

The company declared a dividend of 2.3p a share, unchanged from last time. Brian Kent, the chairman, said: "There is little doubt that our major markets are still feeling the effects of recession."

Despite difficult markets, Staveley's order book has increased 13 per cent to £158 million.

However, part of the backlog would not be delivered until next year.

The company's £27.4 million, one-for-five rights issue in June, which financed the purchase of the minority in Weigh-Tronix, its American measurement subsidiary, has left its balance sheet in good shape, despite the expansion. Interest payments during the first half were just £700,000.

The company's defensive qualities would stand it in good stead during the second half, Mr Kent said.



Weighing up the losses: Brian Kent, chairman of Staveley, who is more optimistic for second-half results

Gleeson defies property slump

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in MJ Gleeson, the construction and property group, jumped 27p to 895p in response to figures that confirmed the company was continuing to buck the downward trend in profits from property-related businesses.

Pre-tax profits in the year to end-June rose marginally to £11.8 million, a performance that the Gleeson board described as "a satisfactory outcome in the current economic circumstances". The final dividend has been increased 10 per cent to 8.74p (7.94p) to make a total of 11.86p (9.36p).

Although shareholders were pleased with the increased payout, the figures show that Gleeson is far from immune from the problems affecting the construction and property

industries. For although turnover rose 20 per cent to £199 million, trading profits fell 29 per cent to £5.7 million.

The higher pre-tax profits were, therefore, mainly due to a 28 per cent increase in rental income to £3.6 million and a £1.8 million jump in interest receivable, which contributed £2.6 million.

Falling property values resulted in a £1.45 million reduction being taken through reserves, with the group's properties now valued at £57.3 million.

Gleeson says it expects turnover to fall in the current year, but anticipates the contribution from rental income to continue to rise. The company also hopes that lower interest rates will benefit its housebuilding.

Hartstone leaps to top £8m

By OUR CITY STAFF

HARTSTONE, Stephen Barker's acquisitive handbag and hosiery concern, has reported a first-half pre-tax profit leap to £8.2 million from £3.3 million last time and issued a confident outlook statement.

Earnings per share were up less steeply, by 56 per cent to 8.1p, and the interim dividend is raised to 1.875p from 1.25p. Shareholders may take the dividend in shares or cash.

Mr Barker, chairman of Hartstone, said: "Our strategic expansion into North America has been the feature of the half year, but should not obscure the very real progress in the other parts of our business."

He said the climate in Britain and America was uncertain, but the board was confident of continued progress and looking for development opportunities.

Regional papers feel downturn

By RONN TIEMAN

REDUCED half-year profits at the Bristol Evening Post and Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers have shown the impact of the recession upon regional newspapers.

Pre-tax profits at Bristol Evening Post fell a third in the half to end-September, to £2 million, despite cost savings from making 120 staff redundant and persuading 72 more to accept pay cuts.

The company, which publishes newspapers in the Southwest, said advertising revenue had fallen £1.5 million compared with the first half of last year. However, the Bristol Evening Post had increased its circulation and the Western Gazette had halted its circulation slide.

The group sold 112,000 shares in Reuters, the news

agency, to help fund rationalisation costs, but also had to take an exceptional charge of £2 million, with another £1 million to be faced at the year end.

Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers' pre-tax profits for the half to end-September fell 16 per cent to £2.6 million. The acquisition of the Northern Press Group helped the company to a slight rise in trading profits, but increased interest payments pulled down the pre-tax result.

Revenues from contract printing and retailing increased, but publishing revenue, excluding Northern Press, fell 4 per cent, and advertising revenue was down 8.3 per cent. The dividend was raised by four per cent to 2.73p.

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The RMIT is a city campus situated in Melbourne, Australia. Melbourne is a cosmopolitan, multicultural city of 3.1 million in the state of Victoria. Melbourne's climate is temperate, and the city is internationally recognised for its performing arts and sporting events.

RMIT has 31,000 students and is currently negotiating the incorporation of Phillip Institute of Technology which has a similar vocational philosophy, and has a wide range of courses, some of which are unique in Australia, spread across an additional two campuses. Once merged, the university will be the strongest multi-level technological university in Australia, and will have approximately 40,000 enrolled students.

The Faculty of Engineering at RMIT is the second largest engineering faculty in Australia currently has approx. 2800 students enrolled in 12 different undergraduate Bachelor degree programmes, five Graduate Diplomas Masters by coursework in Systems Engineering, Project Management, Information Technology, Quality Management, Advanced Manufacturing Technology and Design. It is expected these numbers will increase on the two additional campuses. These coursework activities are complemented by both Masters and PhD research programmes. In addition to research carried out in departments, the Faculty focusses its research in the following Centres: Advanced Computer Graphics Centre, Microelectronics and Materials Technology Centre, National Institute of Pavement Studies, Centre for Aerospace Design Technology, Rheology and Materials Processing Centre, Centre for Advanced Technology in Telecommunications, Centre for Concurrent Computing.

The Faculty of Engineering at RMIT has restructured its Faculty from three to seven departments creating five vacant positions at Head of Department level.

The position of Head of Department has as its focus the effective management of staff, quality control of courses, research and consulting, financial and resource management, strategic planning and promotion of the Department's courses, research and consulting activities.

All positions will carry the title of Professor: Salary \$73,800 per annum. The stated salary of \$73,800 p.a. is transitional and will increase to \$77,900 p.a. in July 1992. All positions are for a fixed term of five years with the prospect of further term appointments.

Selection will be made on the Key Selection Criteria contained in the Position Descriptions which are available from RMIT's Resources Management Group on Phone: (03) 660 4600 or Fax: (03) 660 4653. For further information please contact Professor W. Carroll, Dean, on (03) 660 2523 or Fax (03) 663 7873.

Applications in writing and quoting reference numbers should be addressed to the Senior Appointments Officer by 25th October for Associate Deans & by 22nd November 1991 for Head of Department positions.

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7	Clare Bros	Motor/Air	141
8	Sainsbury J	Food	141
9	McAlpine (A)	Building/Rails	141
10	Auto Star	Electrical	141
11	Goldcrest	Paper/Print	141
12	Wayville	Drum/Sales	141
13	Anglia TV	Media	141
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Drugs sector makes gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 11. Dealings end November 25. Settlement day December 2. Forward gains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Rover 800 roars back with teeth

Kevin Eason tests Britain's new flagship car with greener technology and tougher security

No hint of a smile crossed the face of John Towers, Rover's managing director of product supply, when he described the public view of his business. "This company was so bad at getting things right that we were regarded as a music hall joke," he said.

Britain's only independent mass car maker seems destined to be at the centre of a melodrama. The company careered from an unhappy role as BL, a nationalised industry facing the last curtain call, to Rover, the revitalised business taken under the wing of British Aerospace only to find itself ready to be sacrificed to the Japanese.

Maintaining confidence in a business under the spotlight is the toughest act in industry. At the Rover 800 launch seven years ago, BL had shovelled out a car that was unproved and unreliable and not ready for public viewing.

Most car buyers want to be patriotic but they do not want their patriotism to cost them large garage bills. This was a rocky start, from which the Rover 800 was always recovering.

The executive model is the car by which all other Rovers are measured, particularly by fleet customers with buying power worth millions of pounds. If Rover

cannot get the quality and reliability right on an executive flagship costing £27,000, how much confidence can there be in the smaller models produced in their tens of thousands?

The 800 series has a second chance, an opportunity Rover cannot afford to miss. The company has a £245 million investment in the Cowley plant at stake. The new model, available on Monday, has to be good enough to attract a new audience. In the past the car has been criticised as too blandly Japanese in style to beat its main competitors, the BMW 5 series, the Ford Granada and the Vauxhall Carlton.

Has the change worked and has Rover got it right this time? I believe it has. The new model is not good enough to be a BMW-beater but it will give its rivals at Ford and Vauxhall a fright.

Making the 800 more distinctive was at the top of the designers' brief. They answered the call by bringing back a distinctive Rover grille of the sort not seen on the company's cars for 20 years. The new grille is topped off with the customary 'Viking ship' emblem, giving the car a more identifiable shape. The lines are more rounded and more pleasing to the eye and, happily, a better fit than on the

previous 800 models. Rover has used new carbon fibre template technology, accurate to 150 millionths of a metre, to ensure that every body panel fits tightly.

The interior is little changed but the roomy passenger cabin with its big windows was always the least of the Rover 800's problems.

The biggest changes include better security from advanced ultrasonic alarms fitted as standard and more green technology. Every car has a catalytic converter as standard and there is a new 2-litre engine for company motorists who want to keep the taxman at bay and increase fuel economy without losing performance.

The 135 brake horsepower of the new T-series engine has the Rover 800 accelerating lustily or cruising quietly on the motorway. Servicing costs on the 2-litre cars, which account for about 60 per cent of sales, are 20 per cent lower than on existing 800 models.

Whether the technical changes, reliability will still be the key. The company has even come up with a delivery system that will move cars from factory to customer in 48 hours. Dealers will have only demonstrator cars, as all stock is held at Cowley in controlled conditions. Rover says the damage that cars suffer while being kept in open pounds often leads to unreliability and quality problems. Now, the customer will get the car "factory fresh".

The scheme is unique among mass manufacturers and shows how successfully Rover has worked to shed its "music hall joke" image.

Miss Lewis says: "Because they will speak to me every time, customers build up a contact and I know about their problems or enquiries continuously."

Her success will help to determine how loyal customers are to Vauxhall in the future.

Peter Lord, Vauxhall's director of after-sales, says: "In some ways, the battleground is about to be what happens when you get the car home, how well the dealer responds to you, the customer, and how well we all respond if things go wrong."

Customer enquiries are fed into the computer, which can trace the vehicle through its service history right back to the assembly line.

8,000 salesmen, managers and mechanics through its new technical centre, which opened this week as part of a £50 million development at Luton, Bedfordshire.

There they will be able to meet Miss Lewis and 36 of her colleagues, who staff the customer assistance centre. They deal with

3,000 calls and 800 letters a week from owners, who may have been to a dealer and not been fully satisfied, or from potential owners needing information on models and a host of other details.

Customer enquiries are fed into the computer, which can trace the vehicle through its service history right back to the assembly line.

Next year Vauxhall will put

has their complete file available at the touch of a computer button. Increasing competition for sales is accompanied by the realisation that chasing customers after the sale, whether of new or second-hand vehicles, is as important as making a good enough to attract buyers in the first place.

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Ready for takeoff: the 800, with a classic in the background, is a serious rival for Ford and Vauxhall

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Engine line-up: 16-valve, fuel-injected 2-litre, capable of 135bhp at 6,000rpm; current Honda-de-

signed 2.7-litre V6 continues unchanged. Typical performance: for base 820 five-speed manual gearbox, 0 to 60mph in 9.6 seconds, top speed 125mph, average fuel economy 34mpg; for 2.7 V6 manual, 0 to 60mph in 8.2 seconds, top speed 133mph, average fuel economy 29mpg.

Miss Lewis says: "Because they will speak to me every time, customers build up a contact and I know about their problems or enquiries continuously."

Her success will help to determine how loyal customers are to Vauxhall in the future.

Peter Lord, Vauxhall's director of after-sales, says: "In some ways, the battleground is about to be what happens when you get the car home, how well the dealer responds to you, the customer, and how well we all respond if things go wrong."

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It pays to get a grip

DAMAGED or worn tyres could be the cause of 250,000 road accidents in Britain, the National Tyres and Autocare company claims. However, the company says 75 per cent of drivers do not know minimum tread depths and nearly a sixth never check their tyres. Drivers should check at least weekly, making sure the tread is better than the 1mm over three-quarters of the tyre required by law. Look for bulges, distortions or uneven wear, which indicates problems with tracking or wheel balance. If in doubt, get advice from your dealer.

Back in business

LAND-ROVER's stop-start sales activity in the Middle East has had a happy ending. The Gulf war stopped sales at the end of last year, but Land-Rover was asked to provide vehicles immediately after the conflict. The result is a 38 per cent increase in Land-Rover's Middle East business. The company sold 1,507 vehicles there in the first nine months of the year.

Day of the diesel

DIESEL cars have had their biggest share of the market so far. They took 10 per cent for the first time in October. Sales of 10,256 have continued the trend in which diesel cars have leapt in popularity as customers seek greener and more economical vehicles. The Citroën BX remains the market's most popular diesel car.

Silence, please

THE blood-curdling sound of noisy motor-cycles is the target for curbs by both enthusiasts and industry figures. The Motor Cycle Industry Association has sent posters and leaflets to members, shops and clubs telling them to drop the "anti-social behaviour" of tampering with silencer systems to make their machines noisier.

For the record

SUPERSALESMAN Joe Girard was so miffed that his Guinness Book of Records entry as the world's top car salesman was recently removed that he spent £15,000 on lawyers and a private investigator to prove he was the best. He has been restored in the 1992 issue. The figures show that in his best year, 1973, Mr Girard persuaded 1,425 customers to buy

ROADWISE

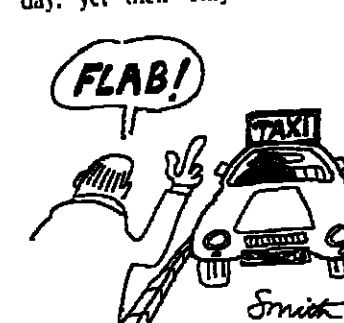
a Chevrolet from his East Detroit dealership at the rate of one every 80 minutes. He sold 13,001 cars in a 15-year career before becoming a lecturer and author.

Audi's in

AUDI's new 80 2.8E, the 174 bhp V6 model, is to cost £19,249 to dip under the £19,250 company car tax break limit. The 80 range runs from £13,998 to £21,798 for the four-wheel-drive 2.8E quattro.

Health drive

FIRST stop is the gym for hundreds of flabby taxi-drivers put on a diet by their company in Singapore. NTUC Taxis, one of Singapore's biggest cab businesses, says its 6,000 drivers spend up to 12 years behind the wheel in a day, yet their only exercise is



flicking through the equivalent of the London A-Z. Now the company has started a three-month programme to help its drivers to fight the flab. A dozen drivers were dispatched to the gym on the first day.

Golf winner

GERMAN manufacturers have driven off with the prizes at the Autocar & Motor magazine awards. Volkswagen's new Golf was judged safest car, pipping the Vauxhall Astra and Volvo 850, while the BMW 3-series won the design award. The best mid-size car was the Audi, while Dr Ulrich Seiffert, a board member of the Volkswagen-Audi group, was motorist man of the year. Other awards were: concept, Ford; marketing, Renault; motorsport manufacturer, Renault; automotive technology, Continental Tyre Company; large manufacturer, General Motors; specialist manufacturer, Gineetta, of Scunthorpe, Humberside. The judges included Dr Murray Mackay, the professor of transport safety at Birmingham University, and John Wall, the head of safety at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

Trade: 071-481 9313
Private: 071-481 4000

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

Auction of Attractive Registrations

by Direction of the Secretary of State for Transport
Auction: 12 December 1991 at 10.30 a.m.
(Entry by catalogue only, price £5.50 post paid)
Catalogues: (071) 321 3152
Enquiries: (071) 321 3273

OPENLINE
To listen to this auction live on 12 December, dial (0898) 500379. These lines are not for telephone bidding (Calls are charged at 48p per minute)

CHRISTIE'S
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EVAN DOUCE
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11 KY £2,500 ono. Pri. £1,500 ono. Tel: 071-581 7611

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Morley Street to begin his British campaign in style

JUST as he did a year ago, Morley Street, the champion hurdler, will begin another season of racing on this side of the Atlantic by contesting the Racedale Hurdle at Ascot today, having already made his mark in the United States by easily winning the Breeders' Cup Chase there.

Last year, Morley Street won today's grade two race by giving Sabin Du Loir 10lb and a three-length beating. By any standard, that was a fine performance because Sabin Du Loir is always a tough nut to crack in the first half of the season, over hurdles or fences.

This time, Morley Street again has to give 10lb to all his rivals with the notable exception of King's Curate, who has also been penalised to the hilt for winning the Bontus Print Stayers' Hurdle during the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham last March.

With a race under his belt, Morley Street should have too much speed for King's Curate over today's distance on the prevailing good ground.

Well as Danny Harrold won on his seasonal debut at

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Chepstow, the ground is unlikely to be soft enough for him this afternoon.

Also it is pertinent to add that he was easily beaten by Morley Street in the Berkshire Hurdle at Newbury last March when Morley Street was basically just having a race to put him right for Cheltenham after a two-month rest. Now the conditions allow Danny Harrold only 3lb for that beating.

While Upton Park showed himself to be a decent novice last winter, he still has a lot of improvement to make if he is to beat Morley Street, even on these terms.

Mr Frisk, winner of the 1990 Grand National, begins another season by carrying top weight in the Punch Bowl Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase. Since he invariably needs a run, I will not be surprised if he is beaten now by All Jeff, who was still in with a chance of beating Foyle

Fisherman and Garrison Savannah at Wincanton eight days ago when he misjudged the fourth last fence.

Josh Gifford has shown us already this autumn that he has in his care two infinitely promising novice chasers in the form of Bradbury Star and Buck Willow.

"Now that the ground will be good, he has decided to take the wraps off what he considers to be a third when he saddles Book Of Gold for the Hunter Park Novices' Chase.

A winner over hurdles at Newbury and Sandown last season, Book Of Gold has jumped fences so well in practice at home that defeat this afternoon is not envisaged.

Horses trained by Gifford will also be in action at Huntingdon where the Findon trainer will obviously be very keen to win the race that is run annually in memory of his late brother, the Macer Gifford Handicap Chase, with Nodform, who will be all the sharper for his first race of the season at Wincanton.

I also like the look of Richard Dunwoody's chance of winning the Ranvet Mares Only Novices' Hurdle there on Mameada, who is my nap following that promising run behind Bas De Laine at Newbury nine days ago.

Finally, Peter Niven, who is a clear second to Peter Scudamore in the jockeys' table, will consolidate that position by winning the first three races at Ayr on Clyde Racer (12.45), Golden Asset (1.15) and Brocture Grey (1.50).

Gifford: winning chances

Pitman to delay Hennessy decision

JENNY Pitman will delay a decision on Garrison Savannah's participation in next week's Hennessy Gold Cup until a few days before the race.

"It all depends on ground conditions," David Stait, Mrs Pitman's assistant, said at Towcester yesterday. "It would be no good asking him to carry all that weight if it comes up heavy."

The Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, beaten by Foyle Fisherman on his reappearance at Wincanton last week, is set to carry 12 stone at Newbury.

Stait was supervising the success of Fino, Mrs Pitman's third winner of the season, in the Moonlighter Novices' Hurdle. Fino, ridden by her son, Mark, prevailed by half a length over Jimmy Frost on Charterfordward.

Peter Scudamore, due to partner the runner-up, gave up that ride and one other after an earlier fall from Here Comes Charter.

The champion jockey is expected to ride at Ascot today but will have to pass the racecourse doctor.

Cab On Target carries total confidence for season ahead

A WINNER at Plumpton or Perth is every bit as welcome to punters as backing a champion at Cheltenham or Liverpool. With that thought in mind, I have chosen the following ten horses to follow during the winter months.

Some will be aimed at the top chase and hurdle races, others most certainly will not. Hopefully, they will all have one quality in common: the ability to win their fair share of races.

Cab On Target has pace, stamina and bags of improvement. Mary Reveley's five-year-old outclassed good opposition on his return at Wetherby two weeks ago and must be followed.

Dawson City made a pleasing return at Cheltenham last Saturday and should pay his way in decent two-mile hurdle races, particularly on soft ground. Peter Easterby will place him to perfection.

Halkopous has just completed a successful flat campaign but there may be even better to come over hurdles.

"He is a natural and absolutely loves jumping," Mark Tompkins assures me. "Mister Ed, a comfortable

Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent, recommends ten to follow for the National Hunt season

winner at Taunton yesterday, showed vast improvement last season to win four times round the minor tracks before finishing an excellent sixth in the Scottish Grand National from 16lb out of the handicap.

Mr Woodcock, another Mary Reveley success story, won in a canter on his reappearance at Newcastle. Winner of three of his four hurdle races last season, he is a powerful individual held in the highest regard by his stable and should stay further than two miles.

Over The Deel, only five

CAB ON TARGET (Mrs G Reveley)

DAWSON CITY (M H Easterby)

HALKPOUS (M Tompkins)

MISTER ED (R Curtis)

MR WOODCOCK (Mrs G Reveley)

OVER THE DEEL (W A Stephenson)

ROMANUS KING (G Belding)

ROYAL BATTERY (D Barons)

SHANNAGARY (R Hodges)

but the winner of three chases this season, is just the type to stay ahead of the handicapper and run up a string of successes for Arthur Stephenson.

Remittance Man was unbeaten in his first season over fences and could go to the very top. Nicky Henderson's Arkly winner is unproven beyond two-and-a-half miles over fences but three miles should suit him and he could be the one to topple Desert Orchid at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Romany King, winner of four chases last season, displayed his best form when beating Arctic Call at Newbury recently. Only seven and reasonably handicapped, he seems sure to win again.

Royal Battery is my long-range hope for the Grand National at Aintree in April. Even if that proves a little optimistic, David Barons's New Zealand-bred should pick up a decent staying distance and soft ground.

Shannagary has performed well against the likes of Sabin Du Loir and Another Cocker Du Loir.

Ron Hodges's improved chaser should be winning when dropped in class.

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2.40 RACECASC ALL SCOT HURDLE

(Grade II, £15,586; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

401 22141 KING'S CURATE 248 (C.D.F.S.) (C. Ebb) S. Moller 7-11-10 M Perrett 89
402 22142 MORLEY STREET 34 (C.D.F.S.) (T. Ebb) M. S. Sanders 7-11-10 P. Powell 89
403 22233 CALARAZ 13 (C.D.F.S.) (S. J. Roberts) M. J. P. P. 7-11-10 M Perrett 89
404 22234 DANNY HARROLD 13 (C.D.F.S.) (S. J. Roberts) M. J. P. P. 7-11-10 M Perrett 89
405 22432 RAINES LAKE 563 (C.D.F.S.) (C. Ebb) S. Moller 7-11-10 M Perrett 89
406 1283 UPTON PARK 219 (C.D.F.S.) (C. Ebb) S. Moller 7-11-10 M Perrett 89

BETTING: 2/5 Morley Street, 11/2 Danny Harrold, 10/1 King's Curate, 10/1 Calaraz, 12/1 Upton Park, 50/1 Rains Lake

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3.10 HURST PARK NOVICES CHASE

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BETTING

Defending champion suffers a familiar hiccup as ATP championships build up some steam

Sampras's serenity stumps Agassi

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

THE nationalities went through two-by-two at the ATP championships yesterday. First the Americans, then the Germans and, finally, the Czechs on, to put it another way, Sampras v Agassi. Becker v Stich and Lendl v Novacek, the first two pairs playing for a place in the semi-finals, the last purely for pride, Lendl having qualified already at the expense of his countryman.

First blood of the night went to Sampras, who survived a tempestuous comeback by his Davis Cup final team-mate to secure a place in the semi-finals with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 victory, which took just over 90 minutes. "Remember last year, Andre," a courtside banner proclaimed and, in defeat, Agassi should take comfort from the memory.

On his way to winning the championships 12 months ago, the American lost to Stefan Edberg in a group match only to turn the tables two days later in the final. He also beat Sampras then, though at the time, the new US Open champion was suffering from sore shins and a sense of anti-climax. "I played as well tonight as I did at the US Open final and I am as confident now as I have ever felt," Sampras said.

Though the mathematics of the group are becoming complicated — which is one of the bugbears of this format — it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that these two will surface again for their sixth meeting, in the final on Sunday. Nobody, barring possibly Lendl, is serving as well as Sampras nor remaining as fit as Agassi. If Tom Gorman, the US captain, had been in attendance, he would surely

have felt happy that the Davis Cup was safe in American keeping for another year.

So furious was the pace, the first two sets were over in a matter of 52 minutes, an average of roughly three-and-a-half minutes a game. Though merely a warm-up for the more serious business of the night for the locals, it was a firecracker of a match, decided in the end by the calmness of Sampras's temperament under pressure and the deadly accuracy of his serve in the first and third sets.

Just as Agassi's hyperactivity mesmerises Becker, so the Californian's serenity seems to unnervise the Las Vegas, who seemed increasingly flustered through the final set and missed two easy forehands at the death.

The first cost him the decisive break in the eighth game of the third set, the second a chance to break back as Sampras served, hesitatingly, for the match. "I was impatient because he wants to dictate the pattern of the match. But when you play to that kind of level, sometimes you can take an easy point for granted and miss the shot," Agassi said.

On the whole their previous meetings, shared at 2-2, have been one-sided, most memorable of which was — at least for Sampras — in the final of the US Open in 1990. The Californian played near perfect serve-and-volley tennis, destroying Agassi almost at will and crowning his fortnight with 100 aces.

That nightmare must have flitted through Agassi's mind in the first set last night as Sampras fired down eight



Stretching a point: Sampras reaches and goes on to score a three-set victory over Agassi in Frankfurt

aces, with no apparent effort: four averted the one sign of trouble in the seventh game, when he had just broken to lead 4-2, the eighth completed the first set in just 28 minutes.

But, just as it seemed Agassi would simply be blown off his feet, the big serve began to

stutter and the defending champion became more coherent. Sensing his chance, Agassi increased the tempo, found the rhythm on his groundstrokes and broke twice to level the match before the hour was up.

Sampras responded by

bringing his total of aces to 16 for the night, which only belonged to him with an outrageous net cord on match point. "That's the way it goes sometimes," he shrugged.

STANDING: 1, M. Rosset (Switz), 215 (133); 2, R. Krajicek (Neth), 133; 3, B. Becker (Ger), 189 (124); 4, A. Agassi (US), 205 (127); 5, G. Forget (Fr), 133; 6, J. Sampras (US), 205 (126); 7, J. Zverev (Ger), 133; 8, J. Novacek (Cze), 133; 9, S. Stich (Ger), 133; 10, S. Lendl (US), 133; 11, S. Edberg (Swe), 133; 12, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 13, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 14, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 15, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 16, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 17, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 18, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 19, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 20, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 21, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 22, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 23, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 24, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 25, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 26, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 27, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 28, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 29, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 30, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 31, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 32, S. Pietrangeli (Ita), 133; 33, S. 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Bobby Charlton's goalscoring record seems certain to be broken by the man who earned a place at the European championships

Lineker is ready to lead England in Sweden



Lineker: sense of purpose

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GARY Lineker reshaped his own future as well as England's 13 minutes from the final whistle in Poznan on Wednesday night. Instead of choosing to end his international career, as could have been the consequence had he not scored the equaliser against Poland, he intends to lead his country into the European championship finals next summer.

In the early hours of yesterday morning, Lineker revealed how close England were to losing a second captain within ten days. Asked whether he would have considered following Bryan Robson into retirement, he admitted: "Yes, I would have thought about it, but that is no longer the case."

Tottenham Hotspur may also benefit from his renewed sense of purpose. Without commenting specifically on speculation linking him with a lucrative move to Japan, he indicated that his stay at White Hart Lane might not necessarily finish before his contract expires at the end of next season.

"Perhaps this will change things," he said, "but you can't look beyond tomorrow. With the amount of games we play, there is always the possibility of injury." Yet his record of availability for England has been extraordinary, especially in view of the treatment he receives from defenders.

Since damaging a wrist during the build-up to the World Cup finals in Mexico five years ago, he has missed only eight of 67 internationals.

The last four times he has been absent were all because he was otherwise committed to his club, either Barcelona or Tottenham.

As long as he remains healthy, he is almost sure to surpass Bobby Charlton's record and become the most prolific scorer in England's history. With 46 goals, he requires only another four and Peter Beardsley, for one, is convinced that he will reach the target sooner rather than later.

"I'd have my house on it," he said, "and I wouldn't be surprised if he gets there before the European championship." Beardsley, the most consistent of Lineker's partners, considers him to be more efficient than either Ian Rush or John Aldridge, his former international colleagues at Liverpool.

The leaders of the Wales and Republic of Ireland attacks respectively, Aldridge described them as "great players, but, on the percentage of chances, Gary gets the most. He was given only one by the Poles and he took it. That is why the man is in a different class."

Those sentiments are echoed by Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham captain, who fashioned the decisive opening for Lineker. "At the moment, there is nobody to touch him. People talk about him being 30, but, if anything, the experience he has gained over the years has made him an even better player."

Lineker, the one survivor from the England teams that reached the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the last two World Cups, believes that the latest side could maintain the

rate of progress and reach the final in Sweden. His ultimate ambition is to lift the trophy itself.

"What tends to happen is that every country writes its own team off. There will probably be eight now that will be saying we've got no real chance. Ours is no different, but somebody has got to win it and we've got as good a chance as any."

"We proved in the last World Cup that we can be a match for anybody and we've given ourselves an opportunity to continue where we left off in Italy."

Lineker's successors, such as Ian Wright and David Hirst, are already in the squad and other youngsters may soon be promoted, but he is not yet ready to be disposed. "I think I'll keep them waiting for a bit longer."

Date	Opponents (Venue)	Result	Goals
26.08.88	Rep of Ireland	2-1	2
16.09.88	United States (Los Angeles)	3-0	3
16.09.88	Turkey (WC)	3-0	3
11.06.88	Poland (Montenapoli) (WC)	3-0	3
18.06.88	Paraguay (WC)	3-0	3
22.06.88	Argentina (WC)	1-2	1
15.06.88	N Ireland (EC)	4-2	2
18.02.87	Spain (Madrid)	4-2	2
18.05.87	Italy	1-1	1
09.09.87	W Germany (Dusseldorf)	1-1	1
14.10.87	Turkey (EC)	8-2	3
23.03.88	Holland	2-2	1
24.05.88	Columbia	1-1	1
28.05.88	Switzerland (Lausanne)	1-0	1
28.04.88	Albania (WC)	5-0	1
03.06.88	Poland (WC)	3-0	1
07.06.88	Denmark (Copenhagen)	1-1	1
26.03.89	Brazil	1-0	1
15.05.89	Denmark	1-0	1
11.06.89	Rep of Ireland (WC, Cagliari)	1-1	1
01.07.89	Cameroon (WC, Naples)	3-2	2
04.07.89	W Germany (WC, Turin)	1-1	1
12.09.89	Hungary (Europe)	1-0	1
17.10.89	Poland (EC)	2-0	1
06.02.91	Cameroon	2-2	2
26.05.91	Argentina	1-1	1
03.06.91	New Zealand (Auckland)	1-0	1
12.06.91	Malaysia (K Lumpur)	4-2	4
13.11.91	Poland (Poznan)	1-1	1
Total number of goals in 71 matches			46

Key: (WC) World Cup final; (WC) World Cup qualifier; (EC) European championship final; (EC) European championship qualifier. □ Venue was Wembley unless otherwise stated.

Yorath braves the dreaded waiting game

By CLIVE WHITE

IT WILL be of little consolation to Terry Yorath and his Wales team as they await with trepidation the result of the European championship qualifier between Germany and Belgium next Wednesday, that few countries could have done better in their four-cornered fight with the world champions.

The Germans will have to go the full distance if they are to outpace the game Welsh, who hold a three-point lead at the head of group five after finishing their programme with a 1-0 win over Luxembourg at Cardiff Arms Park on Wednesday.

Yorath, in true determined fashion, maintains that his gut feeling is that Wales will qualify and did his best to make out a logical case for that improbable outcome. "If I was in their position, needing three points from two games with one of them away against Belgium, I wouldn't be too happy," he said, but then added: "The Germans had their backs against the wall when they played us and they did it. They've always done it."

Yorath, who will be travelling to Brussels to discover at first hand his team's fate, sounded less convincing the more he analysed the situation. "If they play like they did against us in Nuremberg there will be no stopping them. Belgium are in the throes of making changes and they have a new coach. The only way Belgium will win is with national pride. I can't see them being technically stronger."

If they eventually have cause to be downhearted,

Wales should not be dispirited. The future looks brighter than it has done for many years with the emergence of several outstanding young players, such as Gary Speed, Ryan Giggs and Andrew Melville to name but a few.

Melville's authoritative performance as sweeper may have signalled the end of Kevin Ratcliffe's fine international career. If it is — the Everton defender was unavailable through injury on this occasion — Wales will need to find a new captain and at the moment there is not an obvious successor.

Peter Nicholas took over in his absence against Luxembourg, a duty which coincided neatly with his record-breaking 73rd cap. The player of whom it was once said had a tiger in his tackle, is also a bit long in the tooth now and the Welsh may find it harder to replace him than Ratcliffe. Billy Bingham's future as the Northern Ireland manager is all but assured, despite the country's failure to qualify for the European championship finals in Sweden. It seems almost certain that Bingham will be offered, and will accept, a two-year extension to his contract, which is scheduled to expire next July.

Informal discussions about Bingham's position have already taken place among members of the Irish Football Association's international committee, and an official announcement is expected on December 12. "I do not want to say too much but I am hearing good vibes about the possibility of a new contract," Bingham said. "I do feel that they want me to stay on."



Grounds for optimism: Walsh believes home advantage will give Slough Town the edge over Reading in their FA Cup derby on Saturday

Thompson's sights are set on an upset

By WALTER GAMMIE

SLOUGH Town's FA Cup visitors on Saturday will travel 16 miles up the line from Reading for an eagerly anticipated first-round derby that will be played before a 4,500 all-ticket crowd at Wexham Park, the functional but well-kept ground Slough have occupied since 1974.

"If we'd sat down and worked out what draw we'd have wanted, this is the tie we would have picked," Mick Walsh, the Slough Town coach, said. "It's a tight pitch, there will be a big crowd, and I

don't think they will fancy it very much."

Walsh, the former Blackpool and Queen's Park Rangers forward, spent a year scouting for third-division Reading after returning to England from a spell with FC Porto.

The gusto he brought to his job alongside Alan Davies, a manager steeped in the non-League scene, helped Slough negotiate their tricky first season in the GM Vauxhall Conference. Second-time round, the club has had the confidence to allow Davies, noted for his parsimony in the



FA CUP

transfer market, to buy the defenders Colin Fielder, for a record £18,000 from Farnborough, and Steve Whitby, for £8,000 from Wycombe Wanderers.

One of the aces in the pack, however, cost nothing. When Steve Thompson, from Cornwall, joined the RAF as a physical training instructor and was posted to RAF

Northolt, he rang up the one football club in the area he knew, having played for Salford United at Wexham Park in an FA Trophy tie. "I told them I was the one on the right of midfield," Thompson said. "They said they remembered the two players up front, but could not remember me."

His impact can be measured by his topping the goalscoring charts from midfield last season. He is now playing in attack alongside Paul McKinnon, an enduring goalscorer now aged 33, who was signed from Sutton United and struck form to become the

Conference's top marksman last month. "Paul's really easy to play alongside," Thompson said. "His positional sense in the penalty area is fantastic. He's a natural goalscorer."

The club, whose attendances hover around 1,000, is making strenuous efforts to generate more revenue, under a new chairman, Tom Dean, and Rodney Furey, of the sponsor, UK Parcels. It is in the process of turning itself from a members' club to a public limited company, and has also won permission to lay out a nine-hole golf course and a driving range.

Charlton can find solace in failure

By PETER BALL

GARY Lineker's goal produced joy in Poznan. In Istanbul, Ireland were left counting the cost as their outstanding win went for nothing. Conservative estimates put the financial cost at around £1 million. The consequences for Jack Charlton and his players are less easy to fit into financial terms.

Charlton's future is not a matter for conjecture. "I'm staying," he said bluntly yesterday at Istanbul airport. "I intend to be Irish manager for the next four years — unless I do a runner."

Failure has its compensations. Within ten minutes of the final whistle in Istanbul, Sean Connolly, the chief executive of the Football Association of Ireland, was accepting an invitation to the United States' four-team tournament next summer. With Italy and either Portugal or Spain also involved, it is already being described, with typical American understatement, as "the European series".

That tournament, and international next spring, with Denmark, Switzerland and the United States all visiting Dublin will give Charlton time to prepare his side for the next World Cup without pressure. "I'll look at a few players, I'll discard a few, I'll see where we are heading for." It is an opportunity that Graham Taylor might envy.

For some, however, Wednesday's match could mark the beginning of the end of the road. It is always dangerous to write off such formidable competitors as Mick McCarthy, Kevin Moran and David O'Leary, but Charlton admitted that "in terms of rebuilding, the central defence will be my priority."

IN BRIEF

Hutchings ruled out for winter

The former English cross-country champion, Tim Hutchings, aged 32, will not race this winter because of an operation on a hamstring injury that has kept him out of competition for more than a year.

Hutchings, who has twice finished second in the world cross-country championships, hopes to compete again next summer.

Cassan first

Equestrianism: Tina Cassan, of Britain, yesterday won the Toronto show's grand prix class with Genesis. The event also counted as a Volvo World Cup qualifier.

□ The Royal International Horse show may move to Cardiff Castle after an eight-year run at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Cardiff City Council is expected to approve the move on Monday.

Germans expect

Fencing: Germany are expected to dominate the Eden Cup for the fourth year running tomorrow when the event takes place at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

Tour opening

Cycling: The 1993 Tour de France will start from the Vendée region of western France, organisers said yesterday. The race will begin with a prologue in the village of Le Puy du Fou on July 3

Fraser retains hope of making England tour

By IVO TENNANT

ANGUS Fraser, the Middlesex bowler, will decide whether he will be fit enough to join the England party when it leaves to tour New Zealand on December 27. He was released from hospital last week after a hip operation, and will not come off crutches until December 3.

"I hope to be allowed to do light training," he said. "I have been in some pain, but am swimming and hope to be bowling in the indoor nets before Christmas. I have to prove I can not only bowl, but bowl as well as I did before the injury."

If Fraser misses the New

CRICKET

Zealand tour, he may be available for the World Cup, which starts in late February.

Fraser attended the launch of Whittingdale's pre-tour coaching sessions at Lord's yesterday.

Ted Dexter, the chairman of the England committee, said: "I first proposed this kind of training at the time of World Series cricket, and now we have the money for it. We were keen to employ the best coaches; now we have them."

Among those who will be coaching England, England and fringe players regularly are Geoff Arnold, Alan Knott and Keith Fletcher.

Scots may be forced to pull out of event

By ALIX RAMSAY

A LACK of funds is threatening Scotland's chances of competing in the Inter-Nations Cup in Singapore next September.

The tournament is the first part of a two-stage qualification process for the World Cup in Dublin in 1994. If Scotland are successful in Singapore, they face another expensive trip to the United States for the Inter-Continental Cup to claim their ticket to Ireland.

Alistair Gray, the chairman of the Scottish Hockey Union,

HOCKEY

favours pulling out of the competition altogether and concentrating on Scotland's preparations for the European Cup in four years' time. The players, however, are willing to try and raise the £40,000 for the Singapore trip themselves.

"We should not have to rely on the players to raise that kind of money," Gray said. "Our total budget for the year is £65,000 and it doesn't take a genius to realise that the Inter-Nations Cup will commit most of our resources to one competition."

Champion has been off colour

By PHIL YATES

THE single-minded approach to practice that has contributed to Stephen Hendry's rise to the top of his profession has been in evidence again this week. Even a severe bout of tonsillitis has failed to prevent him from preparing thoroughly for the United Kingdom Open, which starts at Preston today.

Hendry, who will be attempting to complete a third successive victory in a tournament recognised as the second-most important on the circuit, opens his defence tomorrow with a fourth-round, best-of-17-frames match against Alex Higgins.

It is hardly the gentle introduction a top seed can usually expect. Higgins, fighting back after his year-long ban, is desperate for an extended run to help him regain his former status.

He will be well supported in his adopted Lancashire, although the odds would appear stacked against him. While Hendry's last competitive appearance yielded a 10-6 victory over Steve Davis in the Rothmans Grand Prix final, Higgins comes into the match fresh from a 3-0 defeat by Ken Doherty in the Benson and Hedges championship.

□ Doherty swept to a 6-1 lead over Darren Morgan in the final of the Benson and Hedges event in Glasgow yesterday, which left him needing a further three frames for victory.

FRANK SPOFFORD (Doherty beat) 10-6, 65-37, 19-80, 11-53, 89-28, 88-38, 80-28

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP ONE: Spain 1, Czechoslovakia 1

France 1, Czechoslovakia 1
Spain 1, Czechoslovakia 1
France 1, Czechoslovakia 1

GROUP TWO: Romania 1, Switzerland 1

Scotland 2, San Marino 0
Romania 1, Switzerland 1
Scotland 2, San Marino 0

GROUP THREE: Cyprus 0, Soviet Union 1

Norway 1, Cyprus 0
Hungary 1, Cyprus 0
Cyprus 0, Soviet Union 1

GROUP FOUR: Denmark 2, Northern Ireland 1

Austria 0, Yugoslavia 2
Yugoslavia 2, Denmark 1
Austria 0, Yugoslavia 2

GROUP FIVE: Wales 1, Luxembourg 0

Wales 1, Luxembourg 0
Belgium 1, Luxembourg 0
Luxembourg 0, Republic of Ireland 2

GROUP SEVEN: Poland 1, England 1

Poland 1, England 1
England 1, Poland 1
Poland 1, England 1

GROUP EIGHT: Portugal 1, Turkey 1

Portugal 1, Turkey 1
Turkey 1, Portugal 1
Portugal 1, Turkey 1

SNooker

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TENNIS

INDIANAPOLIS: Women's tournament

Second round: K. Hladik (Czech) 6-1, 6-4; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

Philadelphia: Women's tournament

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

Switzerland: Women's tournament

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

Switzerland: Women's tournament

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

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First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

Switzerland: Women's tournament

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

SNooker

GLASGOW: Benson and Hedges Masters

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

First round: J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1; J. Zvereva (USSR) 6-4, 6-1

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THE TIMES SPORT

Continuity can be the key to Taylor's success



Taylor: still learning

By DAVID MILLER

GRAHAM Taylor and his assistant, Lawrie McMenemy, sat on the bench in Poznan, one down after half an hour, debating what should be done to save England's bacon. Taylor was all for changing his midfield, as he would do at half-time. McMenemy advised him to hold on.

Fifteen minutes later, Taylor went to the dressing-room and quickly told the more experienced Smith, a central attacking partner for Lineker, to replace the novice, Gray. The tactics of the match were transformed in the second half. Lineker brilliantly equalised and England were in the European finals. By that strange, unpredictable amalgam of luck and judgment and by the narrowest of margins, Taylor and McMenemy – and England – got it right.

The speculation now is whether, in the ever-present lottery of any national team, Taylor can get it right, or nearly right, in Sweden next summer. The charm of football is not only the invitation of an audience to fine matches and memorable moments such as Lineker's goal – the war and ballet of the game – but endless arguments afterwards about the chess of it all.

The team deserved its draw. It is less sure that the manager did. I remain convinced, after the event as before, that he adopted a plausible policy, but with questionable personnel. Opinion is part of the mass appeal of the game, and one of the most characteristics of Taylor is that while convinced in the correctness of his judgment, he freely accepts the elements of controversy.

For the moment, he can smile. Had Poland gone two up, which well they might, it is doubtful if he could have done. Sport lives, thrillingly, by hairline margins. The problem for Taylor, who never played as an international and encountered little competitive overseas football in club management, is that he is learning with his players. I am not privy to how much he consults McMenemy, but his assistant, though also never a notable player, was artful at man-management and gleaming knowledge from wise contemporaries.

McMenemy learned from Jack Stein, for example, that, in the frenzy of the opening phase of national matches, attacking players can quickly lose impetus and heart. Taylor and McMenemy had determined to play for time on Wednesday, waiting to see how Poland would approach this critical cup tie, aiming to control the midfield themselves. Smith and Daley, who later replaced Sinton, were always part of the game-plan. My contention is that when a team attempts to control the play with five in midfield, those five must have the maturity and passing ability to retain possession. For 45 minutes, England were winning a majority of the ball, but squandering it with haphazard distribution. Robson, in a final fling, Steven or Beardsley – who was not even on the bench – would surely have brought more composure than Gray or Sinton. That is now history.

Yet it is worrying that Taylor should express the view that continuity of selection and tactical formation are not necessarily virtues. He even went as far as suggesting that Alf Ramsey was "lucky" to have few injuries to interrupt his pattern. That opinion is at odds with the facts. Ramsey managed 37 matches between 1964 and 1967 in which there was little alteration in nine of the 11 positions. Continuity was everything. The same was true when Don Howe persuaded Ron Greenwood to introduce the same element before the World Cup finals in 1982. Since the national manager is vulnerable to fluctuation in almost every factor – injury and club form – continuity and tactical formation is the sole element of stability.

Taylor and McMenemy yesterday pointed to the fact that there is not the formal conformity in the Football League that there is in Germany. This is exactly the reason why, in my opinion, it is imperative to decide on a particular policy and to retain it as a framework for an unavoidsably changing cast. Taylor justifiably claims that England have lost only three times in 41 matches, but that is because the majority were at home, a minimum were against the best international opposition, and England have one of the strongest professional leagues and ought to be difficult to beat.

England manager to limit experiments

Taylor intent on fashioning a settled team

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

JOCK Stein once said that working clothes were required during the qualifying stages of a competition. Dinner suits were to be brought out only for the finals. The sartorial metaphor is appropriate, bearing in mind the name of the England manager and the way his sides have so far been designed.

Graham Taylor accepts that he has been "making and mending". So many recognised internationals have regularly been missing (11 were unavailable for the visit to Poland, for instance) that he has not yet been able to fit together the team that he regards as his ideal.

Nor, he fears, will England be dressed in all their finery for the European championship finals in Sweden next summer. Restricted to a squad of 20, he already has 15 players in mind and they do not include either the most gifted individuals, John Barnes and Paul Gascoigne, or the most accomplished defender, Mark Wright.

The damage caused to the Achilles tendons of Wright and, especially, Barnes, and to the knee of Gascoigne, though not necessarily irreparable, threatens their international careers. Even if they do recover, they may not do so in

England itinerary leading up to the European championship finals

Feb 19: v France (Wembley)
March 22: v Czechoslovakia (away)
April 29: v USSR (away)
May 12: v Hungary (away)
May 17: v Brazil (Wembley, to be confirmed)
June 3: v Finland (away)

time to convince Taylor that they are worthy of being recalled.

He notes that Neil Webb has not regained his sharpness after rupturing his Achilles tendon in Sweden two years ago. Three other established internationals – Peter Shilton, Terry Butcher and Bryan Robson – have retired, and several more have apparently been discarded.

Taylor admits that the process of evolution has been haphazard, but only because his plans have invariably been dismantled.

Under his management, England have been unaltered only once, for the second game at home to Poland. "What do people want?" he asked yesterday. "Before the last World Cup, we were accused of being too predictable. Now we are criticised for making too many changes."

Although he has reached a goal which was beyond Don Revie and Bobby Robson,

predecessors who failed to qualify for their first tournaments, he was surprisingly defensive. His initial success, he feels, has given him no more than "a respite from being told what I am doing wrong."

"The players have to be mentally tough, too, because they have to perform in a negative atmosphere. I would have been torn to shreds if we'd lost in Poland and I wonder if the European championship will be enjoyable."

"We'll be expected to win the trophy and we've only won one in our whole history."

In view of the wild optimism which gathered during England's preparations for the 1988 finals in Germany, where all three ties were lost, his realism is not misplaced.

Having already looked at 42 players (only four more, incidentally, than Bobby Robson in his first 15 matches), Taylor now intends to limit his experiments. During the forthcoming fixtures against France, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Hungary, Brazil and Finland, he foresees bringing in perhaps three outsiders.

The most prominent candidates are John Ebbrell, the versatile under-21 captain from Everton, and Alan Shearer, Southampton's prolific forward. Carl Tiler, Nottingham Forest's central defender, may also be promoted.

An additional programme of B internationals, starting in Spain next month, will offer Taylor a wider scope as he narrows his focus. Yet, as he claims, only if he is consistently provided with his choice equipment can he be expected to tailor his material before June.

Lineker's future, page 39

Romania hold key for Scots

By RODDY FORSYTH

IF SCOTLAND are to qualify for the finals of the European championship for the first time, they must await the fortunes of Romania. That is the result of the calculations which took place yesterday after Scotland's 4-0 victory over San Marino and Romania's defeat of Switzerland, who had been the group two favourites, in Bucharest.

To summarise the equations that now govern the group, if Romania draw or lose their final fixture against Bulgaria in Sofia next Wednesday, they will not qualify for a place in Sweden. The same applies should Romania win 1-0.

If, however, the Romanians win by scoring two goals or more, they will go through. This is true even if the score is 2-1 for Romania, because, despite the insistence of UEFA's spokesmen that such an eventuality would require the section to be settled by the drawing of lots or the toss of a coin, the tournament rules specify that the results of games between the tied countries be taken into account.

Yorath's wait, page 39



Captain's innings: Shastri made a dashing century but finished on the losing side

South African tour ends on a winning note

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN DELHI

THIS has been a week to stretch the bounds of credibility so far that little can now seem surprising. Yet there was still a compulsion to rub the eyes in disbelief at the sight of South Africa gaining the first wicket of their cricketing comeback in the Delhi athletics stadium which was built for the Asian Games.

The gates were locked behind 75,000 rancorous spectators and centuries from Ravi Shastri and Sanjay Manjrekar appeared to have formalised the burying of the myth that South Africa can still match the best in the cricket world. But then, chasing 288 under the glare of the Nehru Stadium floodlights, the touring team at last discovered passion and fluency in their batting.

Remarkably, they won at a canter, with the Indians once immaculate out-cricketer betraying them under pressure. South Africa belatedly settled on a logical batting order and positive tactics. Free of the inhibitions which had bankrupted their cricket earlier, in the week, they dictated terms, winning by eight wickets and with 3.2 overs in hand.

Kepler Wessels, their man of the series, followed scores of 50 and 71 with an assertive 90. Peter Kirsten, mortified by two failures, made 86 not out and the finale predictably featured Adrian Kuiper, whose 63 from 41 balls was a muscular defiance of the infamous Delhi stomach bug which had laid him low earlier in the day.

India ended with their heads hanging, not the sendoff they wanted for today's dawn fight to Australia. But the South Africans will hardly have slept last night for celebrating another milestone in their dramatic year.

This was the first "official" international match to be played here and the stamp of approval has to be dubious, for not only did fielders have to contend with the athletics track, circling inside the boundary, but also with artificial turf covering the sandpits and tarpaulins at each end.

The pitch itself was implanted mud and became slower and lower as the game proceeded. If this was not to the South Africans' advantage, they did not show it as a

contest in which the bowlers were merely waiters at the batsmen's feast ended in unconfined joy, shortly before 11pm.

India chose to bat and South Africa, wearing the bottle green which will be their colour for the World Cup, found nothing in the pitch to help their bowlers rise above the ordinariness of the previous games. This time, even Donald was blunted.

Shastri had been dropped by the Indians after a miserable match in Calcutta but now, with Azharuddin resting a stomach strain, he was back as captain. Typically, he reversed his form. There are times when Shastri can rival the most ponderous batsmen in the world and times, like yesterday, when he plays with dash and purpose.

Shikhar made his habitual half-century, flirts attached, but the innings of the week came from Manjrekar – 105 from 82 balls and without so much as a single hit across the line.

South Africa's task seemed hopeless but an opening stand of 72 from 16 overs was the launch pad they had previously missed. Wessels and Kirsten ran urgently between the wickets while adding 111 in 19 overs and when Wessels was leg-before, hit full toss while sweeping, Kuiper strode in for an awesome display of eye and timing.

The third-wicket pair put on 105 in just 12 overs and, by the end, the bowling was simply sacrificial. Kirsten ran off but held high above his head, and the team which greeted him told as much of relief as of triumph.

INDIA
Ravi Shastri not out 109
K Shastri c Richardson b Kirsten 55
S V Manjrekar c McMenemy b Wessels 71
S R Tendulkar c Cook b Donald 1
Kapil Dev not out 18
Edwards c A. B. S. v. R. 1
Total (4 wickets, 50 overs) 287
D B Vengalwar, P K Arora, M Prabhakar, C S Pandit, S L V Raju and J Shasthi did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-229, 3-284, 4-287.
SCORING: Donald 100-45-1; Smit 104-55-0; Matthews 104-50-0; McMenemy 60-40-0; Ross 60-54-1; Kirsten 50-23-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
S J Cook c Prabhakar b Shasthi 35
C C Wessels bow to Raju 50
P W Kirsten not out 86
A P Kuiper not out 63
Edwards c S. R. S. v. R. 14
Total (6 wickets, 41.4 overs) 288
A Hazen, C E B Ross, C R Matthews, S M Matthews, J J Richardson, R P Smit and A A Donald did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-72, 2-188.
SCORING: Kapil Dev 80-37-0; Prabhakar 64-54-0; Shastri 100-45-1; Tendulkar 60-50-0; Ross 100-42-0; Smit 104-55-0.
Umpires: P D Popper and S Bhandari.

APPEAL FOR IAN RICHTER

Ian Richter is a British citizen. He has been held hostage in an Iraqi prison for six years. Officers of International Refugee Year Trust visit him regularly. He is a devout Roman Catholic who spends many hours of his captivity in prayer. Please pray with him each day that he may soon be freed to return to his wife and three children. Remember, also that he is one of many thousands. To find out more, complete the coupon below.



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Woosnam takes grand slam

Kaui, Hawaii – Ian Woosnam birdied four of his final five holes yesterday to capture the \$400,000 (about £226,000) winner's prize in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, a special event for the winners of the four grand slam tournaments.

The Welshman, who is the Masters champion, cruised to a six-under-par 66 and finished the 36-hole event at nine-under-par. Woosnam's late charge enabled him to overcome the steady play of the Open champion, Ian Baker-Finch, of Australia, who played bogey-free golf until the final hole when he went into the water for a double bogey. Baker-Finch finished second to earn \$250,000.

Payne Stewart, the US Open winner, finished the day with a one-under 71 for a three-under 36-hole total worth \$200,000, while John Daly, the PGA champion, carded a two-under 70 for the day to finish fourth at one-under. Daly collected \$150,000 for

finishing last. "It all came at the right time," Woosnam, who birdied the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th holes, said. "It was especially satisfying on 16 since it had been a long time since I made a long putt for birdie," he said of his 20-footer.

Baker-Finch started the day at four-under and quickly moved to seven-under with birdies on his first three holes. But he came up with 14 successive pars from the



Woosnam: late charge

fourth hole. Woosnam sealed his win with a 158 birdie on the 17th hole to reach nine under par.

A leaf, which he removed from a bunker in a momentary lapse of concentration, prevented Gary Evans, of Sussex, from winning the PGA qualifying school, over six rounds, at La Grande Motte yesterday.

Evans, a Walker Cup player this year, suffered a two-shot penalty for this breach of rules and the countback system relegated him from first place to fourth and cost him £4,000 in bonus money.

Constant Van Waasberghe, of The Netherlands, would have taken the 32nd card, out of 40, had not his two playing partners, Neil Roderick and Mathias Gronberg, reported him for replacing his ball incorrectly on the green.

FINAL SCORES: 135: I Woosnam (GB), 66; 68: 136: I Baker-Finch (Aus), 68; 71: 147: P Stewart, 70; 71: 142: J Daly (US), 73, 70.

Evans' blunder, page 38

Dalglish finally signs Newell at Blackburn

KENNY Dalglish continued his development of Blackburn Rovers yesterday when he signed the forward, Mike Newell, for £1.1 million from Everton. In doing so, Dalglish, the recently appointed manager at Ewood Park, almost doubled the amount of money he has spent since joining the club, following the signings of Colin Hendry for £700,000 from Manchester City and Alan Wright for £500,000 from Blackpool.

It was the third time Blackburn have attempted to sign Newell, after bids failed in the summer and shortly after the start of the season. The fee is the same as Everton paid Leicester City for Newell two years ago.

Newell said yesterday: "Things have changed for me. One big factor is that I am coming to work for Kenny Dalglish, who was my idol in his days as a player. It might be said I have taken a step

down joining a second division club from a place like Everton, but I believe Blackburn have everything going for them. The management is there and with the backing the club have they will fit in well with the Premier League."

The Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper, Ian Walker, faces an operation that will keep him out of action for two weeks. He will go into hospital next Monday to have his tonsils removed in the hope that it will clear his long-standing throat infection.

The former Derby County midfielder player, Trevor Hobberd, has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract with the fourth division club, Chesterfield. Hobberd, who joined the club on a monthly contract last week, was given a free transfer by Derby earlier this season.
